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PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS DENOUNCE PLO-JORDANIAN DIALOG

JN142006Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1845 GMT 14 Dec 78 JN

[Text of statement issued in Iraq by the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; the Palestine Liberation Front; the Arab Liberation Front; the PFLP; the DPFLP; and the Palestinian nation liberation movement, Fatah-the Revolutionary Council on 13 December on the "So-Called Framework of Joint Action With the Jordanian Regime"--read by announcer]

[Text] Our struggling masses: Among the obvious results of the Camp David summit meetings is the decisive reaffirmation of the imperialist-Zionist viewpoint concerning the nature of the much discussed settlement of the Arab-Zionist dispute. As-Sadat has temporarily succeeded in openly enlisting Egypt in the imperialist-Zionist-Arab reaction triangle. This came through extricating Egypt from the Arab-Zionist dispute and paving the way for its joining the Zionist enemy as a result of the demagogic slogans regarding the alleged political and economic gains that will emerge from this Egyptian policy. The Jordanian regime and the Palestinian right, who had been laying big stakes on getting (?a role) for themselves, have been disappointed by the results of the Camp David summit. They did not find in these results any gains in any form. They had to show reservation and objection regarding these results. Their stands express their political aspirations and aims.

Despite these new factors that created a sudden disagreement between the Jordanian regime and the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance, all the masses and the Arab patriotic forces have never hoped for any changes in the stand of this regime and have never thought that this regime will take sides, even temporarily, with the patriotic regimes, despite the new Arab spirit that appeared after the Camp David agreement and despite the emotional and demagogic appearance made by the regime to garb its stand with some form of [word indistinct]. This new face of the regime was seen by our masses in its true colors. The regime is forced to change its tactics toward the Jordanian patriotic movement and the Palestinian resistance by showing some form of flexibility toward them and opening the door to a certain relation with them that will destroy the regime's isolation among the Arabs and give it a bigger role on the Arab level.

In view of the rightist line governing the right section of the PLO--a line that holds that the Camp David results have not definitely closed the door on the idea of some members of the PLO leadership taking part in future stages in the settlement, including the self-rule--this right will not be embarrassed at having a dialog with U.S. imperialism and running after it to beg its recognition. This right will not be shy to maintain some threads of ties with the As-Sadat regime. This right has opened a dialog with the Lebanese isolationists. The increasing interest of the Palestinian right concerning the dialog with the Jordanian regime brings with it more coordination to deal with the formula of self-rule and the other settlement projects. This shows the true stand of this right.

Despite the slogans that preceded the PLO delegation to Amman on the insistence of restoring the Palestinian resistance to Jordan and on the affirmation of the free activities of the revolution among the masses of our Palestinian people in Jordan, the result reached by the negotiating team and called the framework of joint action has not mentioned these strategic issues. The results stated the impossibility of obtaining the agreement of the regime on these issues.

The groups of the Palestinian resistance in Iraq, knowing the real aims of the current dialog with the Jordanian regime and after a careful study of the so-called framework of joint action, declare their unequivocal condemnation of this agreement and reject it in part and in full. The groups base their rejection on the following:

First, the agreement is tantamount to making the Jordanian regime a participant in deciding the issues for the Palestinian people. This agreement robs the PLO of its right to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The PLO is the representative of the Palestinians' struggle to liberate their homeland.

Second, the agreement states that the Jordanian regime and not the PLO is responsible for our people in Jordan. This means that the PLO does not represent our masses in Jordan. This is contrary to the Arab and world unanimous agreement.

Third, the agreement denies our revolution its right to exercise armed struggle from Jordanian territory and indicates that the resistance and the fighters cannot return to Jordan. This means that the truce with the enemy will continue under numerous pretenses.

Fourth, the agreement prevents our revolution from free political, organizational and mass activities among our masses in Jordan. This practically means stripping our revolution of its right to mobilize, organize and arm our masses to take part in armed struggle.

Fifth, the formula of the agreement on the joint action in the occupied territories means coordination in dealing positively with the project of self-rule and other imperialist-Zionist projects.

Sixth, what took place in Jordan aims at severing the strong ties between the Palestinian revolution and the Arab progressive regimes and the progressive states in the world.

To base the Palestinian-Jordanian dialog on what is called the framework of joint action deals great harm to the Palestinian efforts for unity and to the Arab efforts to face the Camp David plot. This is because any dialog with the Jordanian regime that does not clearly indicate the transformation of Jordan into a secure base for the revolution, from which it can launch its armed struggle and in which it can live among its masses who support and perpetuate it, is a condemned and rejected dialog. Our masses and the forces of our revolution reject such a dialog.

This is the real role of Jordan, and this what is required of Jordan on the Palestinian level. On the Jordanian level, we must stress the decisive role of the Jordanian nationalist movement in bringing a change in the required direction. This change is the basis of any dialog and the background of any meeting. Only with joint action with the Jordanian nationalist movement can we embark on the required road.

Required now is a wide popular condemnation of the so-called framework of joint action. What is required is an exposure of all the retreats of the Palestinian right and its concessions. These concessions must be clearly pointed out.

Let all the revolutionary and nationalist Palestinian forces unite in order to bring down the so-called framework of joint action. Let all sincere efforts be united to harness the capitulation and retreats of the Palestinian right. Let all resources be mobilized to work for retransforming Jordan into a base for the revolution. Let the struggle be escalated to bring down the plot of self-rule.

[Signed] The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; the Palestine Liberation Front; the Arab Liberation Front; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]; the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP]; the Palestine national liberation movement, Fatah-Revolutionary Council.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS UNDER 'ARAFAT 14 DECEMBER

JN150736Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 0500 GMT 15 Dec 78 JN

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee met last night under brother leader Abu 'Ammar. The radio correspondent has learned that the committee discussed and reviewed the current circumstances through which the area is passing on the domestic, Arab and international levels.

'ARAFAT: PLO STANCE ON CAMP DAVID ACCORDS UNCHANGED

LD141631Y Paris LE FIGARO in French 13 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report on interview with Yasir 'Arafat: "Yasir 'Arafat to LE FIGARO: Camp David Is Equivalent to a New Enslavement for Palestinians"; date, place of interview not given]

[Text] While American Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is trying to break the deadlock in the talks between Egypt and Israel, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat no longer has any illusions about the fate which will be reserved for the Palestinians within the framework of a future peace treaty: As-Sadat will sign, he says, after subscribing to a settlement of the Palestinian problem which is the equivalent, for us, of a "new enslavement."

Bitter, both with respect to the United States and with respect to French diplomacy, the Palestinian resistance leader thinks of himself, however, as a realist. The settling of a contingent of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon seems inevitable to him, even though "the right of return to Palestine must be granted to us."

[Question] Can the PLO still hope to become involved in the current peace process?

[Answer] We rejected the Camp David agreement frameworks from the first. Our position is unchanged. The plan for administrative autonomy which Begin, As-Sadat and Carter are offering us gives the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza a semblance of legality. No more and no less. For the Palestinians this is the equivalent of a new enslavement. In the space of 2 months, Israel has, moreover, made its intentions even clearer: By refusing to abolish the military government, by designating state properties, by assuming control of all water sources.

[Question] The PLO still has an office in the Egyptian capital and you are maintaining contacts with various members of the U.S. Congress. What do you still expect from Egypt and the United States?

[Answer] It is true that we still maintain a mission in Cairo. But its role is purely administrative. Do not forget that there are 20,000 Palestinian students and 150,000 Palestinian refugees resident in Egypt. I cannot sacrifice them. I am waiting for another country to accept them. As for the Americans, I no longer have any illusions. My occasional talks with certain representatives of Congress, such as Senator Paul Findley, in no way prejudice the official position of the United States, which, as you know, does not recognize the PLO.

[Question] If Anwar as-Sadat signs this peace treaty which you are denouncing, what will the PLO do? Will you try to overthrow the rais?

[Answer] No, we will not try to overthrow As-Sadat. The Egyptian people will take care of that; in 6 months As-Sadat has "got through" three foreign ministers in quick succession.

[Question] If the PLO stands aloof from the peace process resulting from Camp David, what will become of the 400,000 Palestinians in Lebanon? In the absence of an independent state, is the integration of the Palestinian population in the host countries conceivable?

[Answer] We reject the very principle of implementation. That is the basic reason for our opposition to the Camp David agreements. A Palestinian will never be able to accept that a French citizen of the Jewish faith has the right to settle in Palestine while he, who was born in Jerusalem or Jaffa, is forbidden to return to his land. This is a question of principle: At least let our dead be buried in Palestine. That said, the fact is that even if we do obtain a state it will be too small to absorb the 3 million Palestinians in exile throughout the world. Many Palestinians have settled in Lebanon, and some will remain in that country. This is something we must face.

[Question] Two Palestinians recently resumed contacts between the PLO and the Lebanese Christian parties. Does this meeting form part of a possible integration of the Palestinians residing on Lebanese territory?

[Answer] The two people to whom you refer are eminently respectable but they do not represent the PLO officially. On the other hand, I myself met with Pierre al-Jumayyil, the Phalangist leader, at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Beirut last year. That means that the PLO remains open to any attempt to normalize relations with Lebanon. The Lebanese themselves must confirm their agreement. But we must help them in one way or another to attain this goal. The Lebanese state is very well aware that we have respected 90 percent of our commitments arising from the Cairo and Riyadh inter-Arab agreements.

[Question] At the present stage, what do you expect from the French Government?

[Answer] I will reply by asking you three questions: Why did the French refuse to take part in the Palestine day sponsored by the United Nations in New York at the end of November? Why does France aline itself with the EEC stance on the Palestinian problem? Why this retreat in comparison with the liberal ideas advanced in the past when the Quai d'Orsay was inducing the State Department to recognize our rights "to an independent state?"

## ARAB OIL MINISTERS DISCUSS OIL-PRICE ISSUES

DW141205Y Mainz Domestic Television Service in German 1915 GMT 13 Dec 78 DW

[From the regularly scheduled feature "Bilanz", with a correspondent Wuenschee roundup of interviews with Tayih Abd al-Karim, oil minister of Iraq, in French; Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabian minister of petroelum and mineral affairs; and Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, minister for finance and oil of the State of Qatar, the latter two in English, German translation superimposed in all interviews, places not indicated--recorded]

[Text] [Question] In 1973, the OPEC hiked the crude price per barrel of oil by 400 percent, from 1.94 dollars to 9.50 dollars. It increased prices by between 9 to 10 percent each in 1974, 1975 and 1976. In 1977 and 1978, however, the prices froze at 12.75 dollars. For 1979, the price reportedly will go up again, presumably by between 8 and 10 percent. The Iraqi Oil Ministry in Baghdad demands the highest increase.

[Karim] We have incurred losses of more than 60 percent of our oil proceeds as a result of the dollar inflation and the decreasing purchasing power.

If we now demand that the oil price be corrected to partially iron out the losses, we are accused of displaying an extremist attitude.

[Yamani] Under all circumstances, it must be less than 25 percent or even less than 15 percent.

[Question] Also much less than 10 percent?

[Yamani] Even a 10-percent increase is too much for some countries, not necessarily for Germany, but for the other countries not having a strong economy now.

[Question] Your Excellency, you surely are aware of the potential damage an oil-price hike may cause to the world economy. Might even a small hike not be too much already?

[Yamani] No. After all, it is a fact that there was no oil-price stop, for example, in Germany, but that the oil price even decreased. For the same barrel of crude, you are paying much less now than you did in January 1977, for we are still accounting in dollars. And this currency has gone down considerably in its value.

['Aziz] I really cannot estimate anything in advance. I can only say that a price hike will take place in any event.

[Question] The price policy of OPEC will now introduce a new style, namely, smaller price hikes but more often. You are supposed to have come up with this idea.

[Yamani] I am not particularly the inventor of it, but it was my personal idea, for if we increase the oil price by 1 January by a specific percentage we usually have a lot of speculation 3 months prior to 1 January. The people come and buy, and they are making a great profit without any benefit to the consumer. And this is exactly what we want to prevent.

['Aziz] Thus in the future, we will increase the oil price a little at a time. The gravest danger the world must recognize is if we stick to the price freeze for an extended period and then suddenly push the price up high, for this would harm the world economy.

[Question] Really, this boils down to automatic price hikes.

[Yamani] No, the automatic progress lasts for only a year. Then we will meet again in December 1979 to decide the price for 1980.

[Question] The poorer OPEC countries are much harder hit by the dollar decline than the rich countries. As a result, the difference within OPEC constantly grows greater.

[Yamani] Take Saudi Arabia, for a change.

[Question] Well, you have entirely different possibilities.

[Yamani] We have suffered very great losses as a consequence of the dollar devaluation. It is not just that our oil proceeds have dropped by around 15 percent; our investments, mostly made in dollars, have dropped far down on the stock-exchange markets.

[Question] Let me repeat an old question which, however, is highly important to us. Could an oil boycott be possible on your part because of the Israel conflict?

[Yamini] I think we are not in any mood for a boycott. At any rate, we are not planning one. But a boycott is not your problem at all. For in the near future, the oil extraction will have to be stepped up lest you be plunged into an emergency. This is impossible without the Arab countries in general and Saudi Arabia in particular. Thus a lack of cooperation would be enough to hit you in a sensitive spot.

[Question] What do you think about the recent visit to some oil countries by the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury?

[Karim] The visit to Arab countries by Mr Blumenthal was an intrusion in our internal affairs. As an independent country we do not tolerate that Blumenthal says we should be considerate now that the dollar is going up again. Such a trick cannot deceive us. We know exactly how advantageous it is for the United States if the dollar stays down. The currently stable dollar is but a maneuver by which they intend to exert influence from outside on our internal OPEC decisions.

['Aziz] I think Blumenthal wanted to try to slow the price increase down. He told us quite frankly that the U.S. Government would put up with an increase between 5 and 7 percent.

[Yamani] In connection with this issue, we received several ministers, including Mr Blumenthal. We do not consider this an intrusion. This is quite known and customary in diplomacy.

[Question] You know what is called the vicious circle in Europe. Because of the dollar devaluation you hike the oil price, and for this reason the dollar keeps going down in value. How do you propose to get out of this circle, anyway?

['Aziz] Yes, I do know this circle. But in my opinion we are not the people who caused the fall of the dollar. You must keep two things in mind: First, we halted the oil price for 2 years and, second, the dollar went down during that period. This means that the dollar slide was not caused by the oil price. After we froze it at the conference in Sweden, there was only a slight pause in the dollar decline, and then it continued going down. So once again it is not our oil price which is responsible for the melting of the dollar value.

[Question] Is there any danger that the OPEC might split up as it did 2 years ago?

[Yamani] I do not expect that to happen. The Doha conference was wholesome to all of us. I do not believe that it will recur.

['Aziz] At the time reporters, newspapers, and magazines predicted that the price split would spell the doom of the OPEC. I will assure you quite gladly that something like that definitely will not dissolve the OPEC.

[Question] We will meet again after Abu Dhabi.

['Aziz] You will be quite welcome.

QATAR

OIL MINISTER DISCUSSES OIL PRICES, DOLLAR POSITION

JN141016Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0810 GMT 14 Dec 78 'N

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 14 December--Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari oil and finance minister, has said the OPEC conference will adopt a decision to increase oil prices.

This came in a press conference his excellency held at the Abu Dhabi Hilton this morning. He said: As a result of my meetings with my brothers the oil ministers, I can assert that a price increase is imperative. He wished the conference success.

About the gradual increase which he said will be the method which the conference will use in increasing oil prices, his excellency said: This point is crystal clear; there is no dispute over the price increase. He added that the gradual increase would enable the industrial countries to consider the increase and the connection between the oil prices increase and the prices of consumer and industrial commodities.

The Qatari minister said that OPEC cannot for the time being give up the dollar, although a substitute for the dollar is the basket of currencies which is under discussion.

He pointed out that the dollar has improved following President Carter's measures to support it. The dollar is for the time being the best accounting unit on which we can rely in calculating oil revenues.

About OPEC's commitment to the dollar as an accounting unit in calculating oil prices, despite its drop due to the deficit in the U.S. balance of payments and inflation, his excellency reiterated that OPEC is committed to the dollar and cannot give it up as an accounting unit despite the losses that have been incurred by the OIL countries. He described President Carter's measures as real ones. We have seen the results of these measures lately, he added. The Qatari oil minister said that should the dollar continue to deteriorate, it would be imperative to use a substitute, namely the basket of currencies.

Asked about President Jimmy Carter's appeal to OPEC to maintain oil prices, the Qatari minister said that the increase has been agreed upon. Appeals should be made in time and not at critical times, he added.

Asked whether it is likely that division might prevail in OPEC as happened during the Doha conference, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz asserted that OPEC was not divided in Doha since it approved two prices for oil at that time. He said that the two-price system does not mean division of OPEC but rather its unity.

About the impact from the reduction of oil production in Iran, his excellency said that Iran is a Muslim country and dear to the gulf countries and the circumstances through which Iran is passing are critical. He described Iran as a great country and its economic status as strong and said the gulf states will give it support if it asks for help.

Asked about Qatar's idea about the rate of the oil price increase, the Qatari minister declined to specify the rate. He said: I cannot specify the rate of increase but I can assert that the conference will adopt a decision regarding an increase. This has been confirmed by my talks with my brothers the ministers, he added.

The Qatari minister declined to answer another question on whether Iran's current affairs would affect the OPEC conference work next Saturday. He explained that OPEC is an economic and not a political organization.

Asked about Qatar's opinion regarding the oil price increase, whether it prefers this increase to be firm or gradual, the Qatari oil and finance minister said: It does not matter; what matters is that the OPEC states' interests should be guaranteed and their losses should be compensated.

Asked whether OPEC will lay down guarantees to prevent the industrial countries from increasing the prices of their products in order to absorb the oil price increase, his excellency said: We cannot adopt such procedures against the industrial countries. Actually, these countries are unable to control the prices of products as we control the oil prices. He added: We believe in constructive dialog and in negotiations which will guarantee the interests of the OPEC countries, as well as those of the Western and industrial countries.

Regarding compensation for the losses OPEC countries have incurred as a result of the 20 percent drop in the dollar value, his excellency said: We want to map out a moderate policy and take into consideration all contingencies. The issue of increase is a serious one; therefore, we must study the situation accurately, he added. He said: We cannot have a big increase; there should be wisdom and shrewdness. He said: We are trying to preserve the interests of the OPEC peoples and adopt a moderate line.

Asked about the measures which will guarantee the interests of the OPEC countries in the investment and industrial fields and whether oil can be used as a strategic commodity in solving the Middle East problem, the Qatari oil and finance minister said: The oil weapon is more important than investments. The Arabs have used it as a political weapon. However, it is a two-edged weapon and we cannot play with it. We will use it if we can achieve with it Arab demands, the PLO legitimate rights and the liberation of Jerusalem.

Asked about the meaning of a moderate increase, his excellency said: Everyone knows the meaning of moderation and the meaning of extremism.

Asked which is more important for OPEC in the future, prices or production, he said prices are important and so is production. But if you want to classify them, prices come first.

Asked if the oil price increase would lead to the finding of substitutes for oil, his excellency said that the oil price increase is to compensate for the losses incurred by the OPEC member-states and not to find substitutes for oil. He added that all attempts to find a practical substitute have so far failed.

## SAUDI ARABIA

### 'UKAZ PREDICTS 5-10 PERCENT OIL PRICE INCREASE

LD140931Y Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 11 Dec 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial]

[Text] World attention is now being focused on Abu Dhabi where the group of oil-exporting countries will be meeting both within the Arab framework of OAPEC and the general framework of OPEC. The reason for this interest lies in the fact that these countries will determine oil prices which will have a direct effect on all the world's economic activity.

However, these countries, judging from the many statements by their oil ministries, will not seek to impose an excessive increase in oil prices. Rather they would restrict such an increase in light of two considerations: First, that the amount of the increase should not be such that it would be harmful to world economic interests which in turn would affect the oil countries themselves. Second, that the moderate increase should be applied over successive stages of unequal length during 1979 so that this gradual increase would reflect the actual need for increase within the framework agreed upon for a general but moderate increase.

Despite the fact that it was said that a price increase cannot be defined before the OAPEC and the OPEC meet, we believe that the increase will range between 5 and 10 percent with a differential between the prices of light and heavy crude, whereby the price increase for heavy crude will be low while that for light crude will be relatively higher in view of the fact that there is a greater demand for it and it is nearer depletion. Meanwhile, because of lesser demand heavy crude is abundant.

This situation is typified in Venezuela where there are highly productive oil wells which are not being exploited because of the very heavy type of oil they produce. Therefore, increasing the price of light crude would prompt those involved in the oil trade to increase their demand for heavy oil and develop their facilities so as to be able to refine heavy crude economically in view of the high price of light and low price of heavy crudes.

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED WITH ZAIRE ON MOBUTU VISIT

LD141156Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD

[Text of joint statement issued by Saudi Arabia and Zaire after Zairian President Mobutu's 11-13 December visit to Saudi Arabia]

[Text] Riyadh--At the invitation of His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency President Sese Seko Mobutu, president-founder of the Republic of Zaire, paid a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia between 11 and 13 December 1978.

The Saudi Arabian people extended to his excellency and to the accompanying delegation a friendly reception that expressed the affection and appreciation in which they hold the distinguished guest.

His excellency the president and His Majesty King Khalid conducted talks in an atmosphere of frankness, friendship and deep and complete understanding. During these talks they exchanged views on all topics, particularly on Arab-African relations, the events in the African Continent and Arab-African cooperation and bilateral relations.

On the Saudi side the following participated in the talks:

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation; Dr Rashad Far'awn, personal adviser to his majesty the king; Ash-Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi, minister of industry and electricity; 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs; Ash-Shaykh Ahmad Abdullah Sarraj, head of the Asian and African Department at the Foreign Ministry, and Ash-Shaykh Ahmed Badruddin, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Zaire.

On the Zaire side the following took part:

Umba-Di-Lutete, political secretary and the state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation; (Litomo Boti), political secretary; (Mazati), parliamentary secretary; (Matanga), parliamentary secretary; Emony Mondanga, state commissioner for finance; Tshisungu, state commissioner for energy; (Bukana), assistant director of the president's office; and Kimasi Matwiku Basaula, Zaire's ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

The two leaders expressed the desire to strengthen relations and promote friendship between their two countries in all fields, and they agreed on exchange visits by officials to both countries at various levels to this end.

In the field of Arab-African cooperation the two leaders expressed satisfaction with the growth and strength of relations between the Arab and African countries, and with the success of the conferences on Arab-African cooperation on strengthening complete mutual understanding between the Arab and African countries, which are struggling not only for the cementing of their political independence, but also for their cultural and economic liberation and for the founding of a world that is concerned first and foremost with peace and relaxation. The two leaders stressed their support for the African liberation causes and their assistance for African regions which are still suffering from colonialism and racism, and to support these regions in their just struggle so they can achieve independence and their basic rights. They expressed dissatisfaction at the presence of foreign forces in Africa, which are working to drag Africa into the arena of conflict. They underlined their belief in the principle that Africa is for the Africans, and that it is fundamentally necessary for all foreign forces to depart so that security, peace and stability can be established in Africa, and so that the African peoples can develop their capabilities and exploit and develop their economic resources for the prosperity and good of the peoples.

The two leaders discussed the Middle East issue. They condemned armed aggression as a means of annexing territories by force. They affirmed their insistence on the need for Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and for granting the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and the right to return to their usurped homeland and establish their own independent state.

President Mobutu thanked His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and the Saudi people for the warm reception accorded him and the accompanying delegation during their stay in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and for the hospitality afforded them during this visit. He also expressed gratitude for the assistance and efforts of his majesty's government for the development of the Third World and the strengthening of Arab-African cooperation.

His excellency extended an invitation to His Majesty King Khalid to visit the Republic of Zaire. The king accepted the invitation and--God willing--its date will be fixed later.

SAUDI ARABIA TO BE 'WORLD'S LARGEST' GAS EXPORTER BY 1985

LD141055Y Riyadh AR-RIYADH in Arabic 7 Dec 78 pp 1, 13 LD

[AR-RIYADH correspondent report: "Worldwide Interest in Buying Saudi Gas"]

[Excerpt] Within the next 6 years Saudi Arabia will become the world's largest gas exporter. Countries interested in importing gas, foremost of which is Japan, have begun contacts to negotiate the purchase of the largest possible amount of gas.

A Japanese delegation representing 15 companies has arrived for this purpose. [paragraph continues]

This is the first time that such a large Japanese group has arrived for the purpose of negotiating the purchase of a large quantity of natural gas which the kingdom will produce between 1980 and 1981. The group, which will also discuss long-term petroleum cooperation, has met with officials in the Petromin company.

An official Petromin source told AR-RIYADH that the kingdom's production capacity will reach its maximum in 1985, when it will become the world's largest gas exporter following the completion of the gas-liquefaction project.

UAE

PRESIDENT RECEIVES SAUDI OIL MINISTER TO DISCUSS OPEC

JN141304Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0955 GMT 14 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 December--UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received here Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs.

In a statement following the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Petroleum Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, Shaykh Yamani said that the talks dealt with the OPEC conference. He added that all signs indicate that the conference will achieve the desired success in the service of the interests of the OPEC peoples as well as those of the world.

ECUADOREAN ENERGY MINISTER ARRIVES IN ABU DHABI

JN150736Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0650 GMT 15 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 15 December--Foreign delegations participating in the OPEC meetings scheduled to begin here tomorrow started to arrive this morning.

Ecuadorean Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Polanco Semblantes arrived in Abu Dhabi today. He was received by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah and several ministry officials.

YEMEN--PDRY

HUNGARIAN PARTY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN ADEN FOR TALKS

LD141530Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD/EA

[Excerpt] A Hungarian Socialist Workers Party delegation led by Comrade Sandor Borbely, secretary of the Central Committee, arrived in Aden this morning on a visit to the PDRY for talks with comrade officials in the Yemeni Socialist Party. The visit will last several days.

In a press statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY on arrival, Comrade Borbely said that his visit to the PDRY is aimed at strengthening the relations between the parties of the two countries and their governments.

He noted that the comradely relations between the PDRY and the People's Republic of Hungary rest on a solid foundation.

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA, PDRY

LD131105Y Riyadh AR-RIYADH in Arabic 7 Dec 78 p 3 LD

['Abdallah Nasir ash-Shahri interview with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in Riyadh--date not given]

[Text] [Question] What is the purpose of Your Excellency's current visit and will you be visiting other countries apart from Saudi Arabia and the UAE?

[Answer] The purpose is primarily to seek reassurance about the health of His Majesty King Khalid following his return from abroad. This has been an occasion to discuss bilateral issues of mutual interest to both countries and to hold further consultations with his majesty, His Highness Amir Fahd and other officials regarding the kingdom's continued role in developing the YAR in the various fields in accordance with our 5-year plan. My visit to our brothers in the UAE was also for the same purpose.

[Question] What is the truth about the current situation in the YAR?

[Answer] Our situation is normal and stable. Our people support their government's wise steps and are satisfied with our efforts to develop our society and provide better services for citizens in the towns and in the countryside.

[Question] Certain Yemeni sources have accused a certain state of being behind the recent attempted coup in the YAR. Who is that state and what is the real story behind the attempt?

[Answer] The abortive attempt you refer to was nipped in the bud and just punishment has been meted out to the conspirators. We have determined the foreign quarter that was behind the conspiracy and the accused have admitted that they were in contact with an Arab state which they mentioned by name.

[Question] Mr President, what is the YAR's official attitude toward the Camp David agreements and the Washington negotiations?

[Answer] The Camp David agreements do not insure all legitimate Arab rights. However, we do not approve of the attempts to isolate Egypt and tear it away from the main Arab body in view of the serious effect this would have on Arab solidarity.

[Question] Is there a dialog at any level between the YAR and the ruling authorities in Aden?

[Answer] There is no dialog with Aden and there is no justification for conducting such a dialog.

[Question] It has been reported that there is a Soviet plan to establish a military base in Aden and to train Adeni pilots. What is Your Excellency's comment on this?

[Answer] We oppose the presence of foreign bases in our area and there has been no change in our policy with regard to this matter.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE COMMENTS ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

NC141522Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Dec 78 NC

[Text] A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry has stated that the crisis through which the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations are passing is due to Egypt's insistence on linking the Egyptian-Israeli agreement and the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He also stated that despite the benefits which Egypt would have received as a result of the return of all of Sinai and its oil, Egypt has given priority to insuring the rights of the Palestinian people.

The source said that the Egyptians and U.S. positions are completely identical. He said: U.S. Secretary of State Cyprus Vance carried to Jerusalem an Egyptian proposal which was approved by the United States.

The source said that Egypt is ready to establish peace, provided it is a comprehensive peace that would realize the demands of the Palestinian people.

The source affirmed Egypt's adherence to the joint Arab defense treaty and that this treaty has precedence over any other agreements.

The source also announced Egypt's position regarding the need for the negotiations to begin 1 month after the treaty is signed, and for elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to begin before the end of 1979, after which Palestinian rule would be established, the military government would end, and the Israeli forces would withdraw to specific positions.

Concluding his statement, the source said that Egypt has not changed its position since the Camp David agreements.

The messages which President Anwar as-Sadat sent to a number of kings and presidents of Arab and friendly states emphasized the importance of linkage between the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and the settlement in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

CAIRO ON ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE TOWARD PEACE TALKS

NC141544Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Dec 78 NC

['Abd al-'Azim Hammad commentary]

[Text] Three signs have appeared simultaneously confirming again that Israel is responsible from beginning to end for the failure of the peace talks to achieve their ultimate aim: the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The first sign came from Washington in the form of an order by U.S. President Carter to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to cut short his mission in the Middle East and return to Washington Friday evening, after it became clear that his talks in Tel Aviv are not going well, as the Voice of America has pointed out.

The second sign was the U.S. President's statements last night, in which he asserted that President Anwar as-Sadat has shown full understanding during his recent talks with Cyrus Vance on the future of the peace talks in the Middle East and that Israel is now opposing what Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan had proposed previously regarding the holding of elections and the establishment of autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza at the end of 1978. President Carter also frankly explained that it was Israel that caused the delay in reaching agreement on the two remaining basic points in the draft peace treaty.

The third sign, which confirms Israel's full responsibility for the present unencouraging phase of the peace efforts, is what observers have noted about the progress of Vance's talks in Israel in contrast to the progress of his talks in Cairo. These observers have noted that neither the U.S. secretary of state nor any member of his delegation spoke positively about the talks with the Israelis. The U.S. side, in fact, deliberately referred to the difficulty of the situation.

In mentioning these signs regarding Israel's full responsibility for delaying the achievement of a peace treaty--for which U.S. President Carter blamed it openly--we are just confirming an established fact.

Since the Washington peace talks reached a deadlock, it has been clear that Israeli intransigence, which lacks objectivity and validity, is the main reason for this deadlock. This matter must cast doubt on the seriousness of the Israeli position toward the issue of comprehensive peace itself. In other words, if there is agreement that what is needed is a comprehensive and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and that the Egyptian-Israeli treaty would serve as a first step toward such a settlement, logic demands that Israel present proof of the seriousness of its commitment to a comprehensive settlement, as U.S. Senator Robert Byrd said. Senator Byrd recently visited the Middle East as the envoy of U.S. President Carter. The proof which we and the U.S. partner seek is codification of the relationship that exists between the Egyptian side of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the essence of that conflict--the Palestinian issue. In other words, the establishment of a sort of time linkage between the process of peace on the Egyptian-Israeli front and the preparations of the transitional period, and the establishment of autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip preparatory to the participation of the representatives of the Palestinian people in deciding the final future of the Palestinians.

Therefore, when Israel refuses to codify this relationship in the present stage of the settlement process, this must undoubtedly raise questions regarding the sincerity of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's policy on comprehensive peace. It is possible that some people in Israel still entertain the idea of a separate solution with Egypt and isolating it from the Arab world in general and the Palestinian issue in particular. This would give Israel reasons to not take the available opportunity for the Palestinians to secure their political and human rights and would insure for Israel a stronger negotiating position if negotiations took place in which Egypt did not participate. This is because Israel will be beginning such negotiations from the standpoint of a fait accompli--represented in the occupation--without previous commitments.

These assumptions must lead us to an extremely important postulate. It is possible that the present policy in Israel is not to seek a peace which deserves to be called peace--a just and comprehensive peace--but to seek an Israeli peace which would preserve for Israel as much as possible the usurped rights of the others and would not exclude the possibility of usurping more of these rights in the future when circumstances are just right. This is definitely rejected by Egypt. The world today is asking Israel to prove that this is not true if it is really seeking peace and cares about it.

AS-SADAT-VANCE TALKS END, SHERMAN MAKES STATEMENT

NC142033Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] The talks between President Anwar as-Sadat and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance were resumed at 1930 today (1730 GMT). Vance returned to Cairo this afternoon from Israel. The talks lasted 1 hour.

U. S. delegation spokesman George Sherman stated that the U.S. secretary of state briefed President as-Sadat on the Israeli reaction to the ideas he took with him from Cairo. He said that Vance has no comment to make at present on the Israeli attitude, waiting to see what the Israeli Cabinet will decide at its special meeting tomorrow.

Sherman added that Vance continued his discussion with President as-Sadat and the Egyptian delegation on the details of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Sherman noted President as-Sadat's statement that this treaty will be signed sooner or later.

He said that the U.S. secretary of state will leave Cairo tomorrow for Washington. Vance will brief U.S. President Carter on the results of his talks in Egypt and Israel. He declared that the United States will continue its contacts with both the Egyptian and Israeli sides because Washington is determined to maintain the momentum of peace in the Middle East.

Vance Leaves for Washington

NC151211Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1204 GMT 15 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 December--U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and his delegation today left Cairo for Washington. Mr Vance will brief U.S. President Jimmy Carter on the results of his discussions with officials in Egypt and Israel.

Mr. Vance was seen off at the airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS EGYPTIAN-U.S. PLAN REJECTED BY ISRAEL

NC150832Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0717 GMT 15 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 December--The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports today that the proposals which Israel has rejected represent an Egyptian-U.S. plan and the subsequent agreement on this plan during Vance's discussion in Cairo. The paper says that this plan contains the following points:

1. No changes will be made in the articles of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, on the basis of the understanding that the treaty will remain unchanged. However, explanatory memorandums will be attached to them, particularly concerning Article VI, through a clarification to the effect that Egypt's Arab obligations undertaken within the Arab collective security pact will remain in force and will take priority over any other agreement.

2. The question of linkage will be clarified through the exchange of two letters between Egypt and Israel. These letters will merely constitute a treaty specifying the steps to be taken toward the establishment of the self-rule institutions in the West Bank and Gaza. The United States will put its signature as a guarantor on the understanding that the two exchanged letters will have identical wording. The two letters will be exchanged on the same day the Egyptian-Israeli treaty is signed and the United States will sign the two letters in its capacity as a guarantor and witness.

The newspaper AL-AHRAM notes that the two letters to be exchanged between Egypt and Israel include the following points:

A. The negotiations on the future of the West Bank and Gaza will begin 1 month after the Egyptian-Israeli treaty is signed.

B. The elections in the West Bank will be held before the end of 1979. As soon as the self-rule institutions are set up, Israeli military rule will end and the Israeli forces will withdraw from the towns. These forces will remain stationed in specific agreed positions.

C. Diplomatic representation at embassy level will be established following the implementation in full of all the measures related to the emergence of the self-rule institutions. It will not be established before these measures are implemented in full.

The paper notes that Egypt has explained that the crisis which the negotiations are now facing is due to the fact that Israel has rejected the articles of the letters proposed to be exchanged between Egypt and Israel. These articles contain a timetable for the establishment of national institutions and of self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza. Israel has also refused to specify any timetable related to the national institutions and self-rule, except for Israel's agreement in principle to hold the relevant discussions a full month after the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

The paper says that Egypt has asked that the subject of the establishment of diplomatic relations be included in a special protocol, not within the framework of the peace agreement, and through the exchange of three letters among Egypt, Israel and the United States concerning diplomatic relations. Egypt holds the view that this should take place immediately after the establishment of the self-rule institutions in the West Bank and Gaza.

Furthermore, Egypt has made it clear that it cannot concede the rights of the Palestinians or foresake its Arab commitments, even if this will be at the expense of the return of Al-'Arish, half of Sinai and the oil wells in return for negotiating the timetable.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS ON VISIT TO SUDAN, OMAN

NC1416482 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 14 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 December--Vice President Husni Mubarak has said that he has letters for President Anwar as-Sadat from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri and Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, and that he will be briefing President as-Sadat on his trips to Sudan and Oman.

Mubarak said that during his visits to Sudan and Oman, which ended today, he explained the developments of the Middle East situation to President Numayri and Sultan Qabus and that he gave them letters from President as-Sadat.

Husni Mubarak emphasized that he has found that President Numayri and Sultan Qabus fully understand the dimensions of the (?whole) situation and that they have expressed full appreciation for President as-Sadat's moves aimed at establishing peace in the Middle East.

In his statement to newsmen at Cairo airport, Husni Mubarak said that he will be meeting with President as-Sadat and U.S. Secretary Cyrus Vance tonight to learn how matters stand now that serious obstacles have appeared regarding the resumption of the peace talks. He said: We were expecting this from the Israelis.

OIL MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN ABU DHABI

JN141829Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 14 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 December--Iraq has declared that it will accept the minimum that can offset the losses its oil revenues suffered when the question of the rectification of the oil prices is discussed by the OPEC meeting that will be held here the day after tomorrow.

Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, said in a press conference he held here this evening that Iraq will reject a symbolic increase that does not offset its losses as a result of the drop of the value of the dollar and the rise in the average of imported inflation.

Asked about acceptance by OPEC countries of a rectification of prices at a rate of 5-10 percent, 'Abd al-Karim said that this increase is a symbolic increase, and Iraq will reject it in part and parcel.

During the press conference, which was attended by well over 100 newsmen representing the Arab and foreign news agencies and newspapers, 'Abd al-Karim said that the acceptance of the minimum should not prevent those who are more capable of giving to continue their giving.

Answering another question, 'Abd al-Karim said that Iraq has never been extremist as some people claim. However, when it reviewed the oil prices, Iraq took into consideration the interests of the oil-producing countries and double-edged inflation as well as the drop in the value of the dollar and the impact of all those matters on its oil revenues. Furthermore, Iraq is interested in the international economic situation as far as the consuming countries are concerned.

'Abd al-Karim said that meetings and consultations are now taking place among the member states to reach a consensus on the percentage of the price correction, which will be logical and fair, in order to compensate for the losses sustained by OPEC during the past 2 years.

In reply to a question on Iraq's stand on the dollar and on any alternative currency to the dollar, the minister said: Iraq supports any alternative to the U.S. dollar that can be more stable and preserve the purchasing power of the oil revenues. This alternative can be special drawing rights, the first Geneva basket, the second Geneva basket, the OPEC dollar or any other currency basket that can stop the erosion of the oil revenues.

The oil minister said: There is a unanimity within OPEC to rectify oil prices. As for the method to achieve this or the rate of the increase to be decided, these matters will be left to the ministerial conference, which will begin its meetings the day after tomorrow.

'Abd al-Karim affirmed in this connection that the cost of the imports of crude oil by the industrial countries before 1973 was 1-1.5 percent of the general expenditures and rose afterwards to somewhere between 2.5 and 4 percent of the general expenditures of these countries. He said even if the oil prices are now rectified by 100 percent, this would not lead to a rise in the cost of imports of oil by the industrial countries by more than 2.5-4 percent, if we assume that there is no growth in the gross national product of these countries.

The oil minister said: Indicators show that the industrial countries have prepared themselves for a big increase and not a symbolic increase, as some industrial quarters are demanding, because these countries have the ability to absorb any increase.

'Abd al-Karim asked about the reason for creating a big clamor every time OPEC meets to discuss oil prices to cope with the losses resulting from the drop in the value of the dollar and the rise of inflation averages at a time when oil does not constitute except 7-10 percent. [sentence as received]

'Abd al-Karim also asked about the reason for not creating a clamor about the pricing of processed goods, which constitute a higher rate in international trade.

Asked about the aid rendered by the OPEC countries to the developing countries, 'Abd al-Karim said: These countries have obtained from the OPEC countries long-term loans and aid estimated at 3-4 percent of their national income, while the aid of the industrial capitalist countries to the developing countries did not exceed .004 percent.

'Abd al-Karim added: The industrial capitalist states should take into consideration the interests of the oil-producing countries within the framework of restoring the balance of trade to normal. These states should also be prepared for an inevitable gradual increase in oil prices during the next 3 or 4 years.

'Abd al-Karim said: The increase in oil prices is in reality in the interest of the international economy, because it will expedite the process of investment in the search for alternate sources of energy more economical than oil. Furthermore, the increase in oil prices will contribute to prolonging the era of oil, which is an exhaustible commodity.

Asked about Iraq's use of oil as a weapon in the pan-Arab battle, the Revolution Command Council member and oil minister said: The Arab nation is a target of aggression against its existence, the Zionist aggression, which is supported by the forces of imperialism, does not stop at the borders of Arab Palestine, nor is it content with obliterating the rights of the Palestinian people only. It goes beyond that, aiming to occupy all the Arab lands in harmony with the ambitions of the Zionist entity to create the so-called state of greater Israel.

The minister added that it is the right of any country that comes under aggression to defend itself with all the means at its disposal as stipulated in international laws and norms. Arab oil is an effective weapon, together with other weapons, in the battle of defense of the rights of Palestine and of Arab existence.

Answering a question on whether there are coordination and agreement between Iraq and Saudi Arabia regarding the rectification of oil prices, Minister 'Abd al-Karim said that such coordination and cooperation do exist, and he is, therefore, optimistic about the results that the OPEC ministers will produce.

At the conclusion of the press conference, which lasted 2 hours, Minister 'Abd al-Karim affirmed the need for an Arab information [words indistinct] and complete coordination to reply to the fabrications of the propaganda being circulated by the hostile Western information media. At any rate, he said, Arab information is a necessity, and coordination in this field is an even greater necessity.

KING HUSAYN CONTINUES MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES ON EUROPEAN TOUR

AR-RA'Y on Husayn's French TV Statement

JN141340Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Dec 78 JN

[Press review]

[Text] Today's Jordanian papers speak about King Husayn's current European tour and the Arab moves to place the Middle East question on the right course as an alternative solution to the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations.

The newspaper AR-RA'Y says: At the time when the U.S. secretary of state is engaged in shuttle diplomacy between Egypt and Israel to eliminate the imaginary obstacles preventing the signing of a bilateral treaty; at the time when it is reported that Vance has agreed with President as-Sadat on a compromise solution based on the exchange of letters concerning Article 6 of the peace treaty and the timetable for autonomy in the Gaza sector only; and at the time when observers are wagering that Vance will succeed in his mission in brining the Egyptian and Israeli sides back to the peace conference table; at this very time, His Majesty King Husayn announced over French television that peace must cover all issues of the current conflict in the region, because these issues do not just concern Egypt and Israel. It is essential to give primary consideration to the rights of the Palestinians. Therefore, no separate solution can achieve real peace. The settlement of the issue must not come from the United States alone, but must come through the participation of the Soviet Union, our friends in Europe and all those concerned about peace.

His Majesty King Husayn presented the solution as viewed by the Arabs and which must guarantee all the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and Arab sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem. This solution is in line with all the UN resolutions, especially Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Therefore, regardless of the results of the current negotiations among the three Camp David partners, the solution of the Arab-Zionist dispute must be based on the fundamental principles approved by the international community. Otherwise, real peace will not be achieved, and the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations will only result in the worst of consequences.

Husayn Holds Press Conference

JN141638Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Dec 78 JN

[Text] At a press conference held in Paris today, His Majesty King Husayn said that Jordan does not think of joining the Camp David process, particularly in the wake of U.S. replies to the Jordanian Government's questions on the West Bank and the Palestinian problem.

His majesty said that the U.S. replies to the Jordanian questions were extremely vague and unacceptable to Jordan.

Replying to a question regarding the elections scheduled to be held in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in accordance with the Camp David agreements, His Majesty King Husayn said: Jordan will object to a measure that aims at giving legality to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. His Majesty King Husayn affirmed that a UN Security Council meeting might constitute one of the possible solutions to emerge from the current deadlock in the Middle East situation.

His majesty added: In particular, the Security Council will provide the possibility of participation of all the parties concerned, including the Palestinians and the big powers, in order to reach a just and comprehensive settlement. His majesty expressed hope that the United States, Europe and the Soviet Union would share in an initiative undertaken by the UN Security Council to reinterpret Resolution No 242 pertaining to the Middle East crisis and to define its meaning, provided that all the Arab parties concerned in the crisis participate in this initiative.

His majesty said: This is the way that might lead to a comprehensive peace, because different approaches to the peace process are the only means of insuring an atmosphere for the possible achievement of progress toward peace.

His Majesty King Husayn said: It is possible for Egypt to rejoin the Arab ranks in order to share with us the search for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

His Majesty King Husayn expressed hope that French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing will be able to make an official visit to Jordan. His majesty affirmed the existence of a great understanding between Jordan and France regarding Middle East issues.

More on Press Conference

JN141843Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpts] Prior to his departure from Paris today, His Kajesty King Husayn held a press conference attended by representatives from French and foreign television stations, world news agency correspondents and European radio station reporters. His majesty spoke about the latest developments in the Middle East and Jordan's clear stand on these developments.

His Majesty King Husayn said that the only way to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is through Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination by establishing their independent entity on their land and soil, if they so wish.

His Majesty King Husayn affirmed the need for the restoration of Arab sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem so that this city would be the symbol of peace. He said that Jerusalem concerns millions of Christians and Moslems in various parts of the world.

In answer to a question, his majesty said that he does not believe that the Camp David talks constitute a sound basis for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. He added that he cannot say whether the Camp David agreements have failed or succeeded in realizing their objectives. We do not think or feel that these agreements are the sound basis for a just and lasting peace in our area--a peace to which we have aspired for a long time.

His Majesty King Husayn said: We want peace. However, we should know what the final outcome of any negotiations will be. If we know this, not only Jordan but all the Arabs in the area, including the Palestinians, would reconsider the matter.

His Majesty King Husayn said: All the Arab states belong to one nation. It is their duty to stand alongside any part of this nation that might be threatened.

Travels to Italy

JN141703Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur arrived in Rome from Paris this evening following a 4-day visit to France, during which his majesty held talks with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and senior French officials.

During the discussions, His Majesty King Husayn outlined the Jordanian stand on current developments in the Middle East. His majesty also explained to French officials the Arab viewpoint regarding these developments. The discussions also dealt with Jordanian-French relations.

Meets President, Prime Minister

JN142112Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn met in the presidential residence in Rome this evening with Italian President Sandro Pertini immediately following his majesty's arrival in Rome on the second leg of his European tour.

At 2100 Jordan time, his majesty held an official meeting with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. A review was made of the various aspects of the Middle East issue. His majesty explained the Jordanian stand on recent developments and the Arab viewpoint. A discussion was held on the role of the European states in helping to achieve a just and lasting settlement in the Middle East. The two sides reviewed Jordanian-Italian relations and areas for joint cooperation.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Amir Khammash, court minister; Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Jordanian ambassador to Italy.

This evening, his majesty received the Italian foreign trade minister.

MORE ON VISIT OF NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER

Honored With Dinner

JN141240Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Jordan and the Netherlands have reiterated their support for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

This reiteration was made at a dinner yesterday evening hosted by 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, minister of information and acting minister of state for foreign affairs, in honor of Dr Christoph van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him.

In the speech he delivered, Abu 'Awdah said that Jordan did not agree with the Camp David agreements because after having studied these agreements it found they do not fulfill the needs for a just settlement. Abu 'Awdah added that these agreements will lead to a separate peace, and Jordan believes that separate agreements in the Middle East can in no way constitute a step on the road to comprehensive peace.

The Jordanian minister stressed that Jordan believes that any settlement must insure a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and guarantee the Palestinian people's right to determine their political future and fate of their national soil with complete freedom within the framework of the comprehensive settlement.

Abu 'Awdah praised the relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries and pointed to the various agreements concluded between Jordan and the Netherlands in technical cooperation and financial support to development projects. Abu 'Awdah stressed that these relations have developed as a result of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's visit to the Netherlands and the visit by Princess Beatrix, heir apparent of the Netherlands, to Jordan. The Jordanian minister added that Jordan formulates its policy on the basis that development in various fields and peace are two principles linked together which cannot be separated.

In a reply speech, Dr van der Klaauw expressed his happiness at visiting Jordan. He also expressed the hope that this visit will achieve its objective by allowing him to get directly acquainted with the Jordanian political position on the Middle East conflict. Dr van der Klaauw added that the Netherlands Government supports a just and comprehensive peace. He expressed his hope that the parties to the conflict will reach such a peace in the very near future. The Netherlands minister praised bilateral relations and reviewed historical, cultural and scientific relations linking the Netherlands to the Arab world.

Technical Cooperation Accord Concluded

JN141437Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Dec 78 JN

[Text] The Jordanian and Netherlands governments signed a technical and economic cooperation agreement in Amman today, to strengthen relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement provides for the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in economy, trade, industry, mining, agriculture and science; the exemption from all customs taxes of all equipment provided by the Netherlands to Jordan in implementation of the program on technical assistance concluded between the two countries in 1976; the organizing of assistance provided by the Netherlands to Jordan to help it achieve economic viability; the formation of a joint committee of experts from the two countries to meet once a year or at the request of either party to complete implementation of the projects covered by the agreement and to study problems arising from their implementation in order to find solutions to these problems.

It is noteworthy that the Netherlands Government is providing annual assistance to Jordan to finance a number of development projects. The agreement was signed for the Jordanian Government by 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, information minister and acting minister of state for foreign affairs, and for the Netherlands Government by its foreign minister, Dr Christoph van der Klaauw.

Leaves Amman, Comments

JN141738Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Netherlands Foreign Minister Dr Christoph van der Klaauw and the delegation accompanying him left Amman this afternoon following an official 2-day visit, during which he met with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Mr van der Klaauw held talks with 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, information minister and acting minister of state for foerign affairs, on ways to expand cooperation between Jordan and the Netherlands in economics, technology, culture and overland transport.

Dr van der Klaauw stated that his talks in Jordan were positive and constructive, resulting in the signing of an economic and technical cooperation accord between Jordan and the Netherlands. He added that he met with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and was briefed on Jordan's firm stand on the Middle East issue--a stand based on total Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination.

Dr van der Klaauw said: I sensed a definite desire for peace on the part of the Jordanian officials. I will convey the Jordanian viewpoint to the Netherlands and EEC officials.

'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, information minister and acting minister of state for foreign affairs, who saw off Dr van der Klaauw, praised the relations between Jordan and the Netherlands. These relations are founded on cooperation and mutual respect. He said that his talks with the Netherlands foreign minister dealt with bilateral relations and the Middle East issue. Regarding bilateral relations, the talks achieved positive results crowned with the signing of an economic and technical cooperation accord between the two countries. This accord will open new horizons for the development of economic relations and aid programs for Jordanian development projects.

On the Middle East issue the minister said: The talks that the guest minister held with Prime Minister Mudar Badran contributed to a better understanding of the stands of the two sides regarding the situation in the Middle East. This understanding will assist a positive international move toward achieving a just and lasting settlement of the crisis.

Replying to a question on how Jordan views the Netherlands role in resolving the Middle East crisis, Mr 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah said: Jordan views the Netherlands from two perspectives: The first is the Netherlands that is seeking to develop its relations with the Arab world and has special relations with Israel; the second is the Netherlands that is an EEC member-state. In both cases, the Netherlands can play a balanced and positive role to bring about a just peace based on the UN resolutions.

The guest was seen off by several senior officials and the EEC ambassadors in Amman.

ARAB JERUSALEM GOVERNOR ON CAMP DAVID, MIDEAST ISSUES

JN141353Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Dec 78 p 5 JN

[Report on interview granted in Amman by Governor of Arab Jerusalem Anwar al-Khatib on the occasion of his visit, to AR-RA'Y correspondent 'Abdallah al-'Utum--date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Do you believe that the time has come to search for other methods in order to restore our rights in our homeland?

Answer: The people of Palestine want peace, but not at any cost. The period of occupation has been going on for a long time and our people are at a loss, despite their steadfastness. We remain steadfast while Israel is strangling us economically, socially and politically, and prevents our development as Arab citizens.

Our only demand is that we achieve sovereignty over our land. Any solution that does not insure this demand is a solution rejected by us. Our people are ready to cling to their land on condition that the Arabs support them. We the people in the occupied territories only hear about an Arab fund and an Islamic fund, but we see nothing from these funds.

Question: What are the reactions to the Camp David agreements in the occupied territories?

Answer: Camp David reminds me of the Rhodes Island treaty because both agreements were signed in the absence of the Palestinian people. Maps were drawn up, borders and demarcation lines were laid down to partition the one house, as was done in western and eastern Baqah village, Bayt Safafa and (Burtu'a) villages. The door to negotiations was opened wide by the Camp David agreements. Anwar al-Katib added that he remembers President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir saying to him that 'Abd an-Nasir did not have the courage to negotiate in the name of the Palestinian people: "Who am I to say to the sons of Accra and Bayt Jibril that I am negotiating in your name?" Al-Khatib added, quoting 'Abd an-Nasir. Anwar al-Khatib added that we in the West Bank do not have the right to negotiate in the name of the Palestinian people because we represent a third of the Palestinian people, which totals 3.5 million. We do not possess the right to speak in the name of the Palestinian people. The Palestinians' right to self-determination remained vague in the Camp David agreements. These agreements are just a framework within which it is permissible only to move. They are not suitable as a comprehensive framework for negotiations. I say that the Camp David agreements are only suitable as a starting point. The Camp David agreements stipulate the election of 12 members in the occupied territories to administer these territories. These 12 members must be from Israel, Jordan and the West Bank. This is vague, unjust and rejected. Camp David stipulates that the fate of the occupied territories will be determined 5 years after the formation of this council.

I welcomed President as-Sadat's initiative, received him in Jerusalem and said prayers with him at the Al-Aqsa mosque. I met him in the King David Hotel, but I never expected that such a catastrophe would take place. I met with him after I listened to his speech at the Knesset, which contained all the clear Arab demands and in which he dotted the i's, stressed the Arab character of Jerusalem and said that he was carrying out his initiative from a position of strength and not weakness.

Question: What are your opinions on UN Resolution 242, particularly since a large majority of the Arabs agree to it?

Answer: I do not consider Resolution 242, which speaks about a just peace, a fair resolution. I term it the possible peace. Resolution 242 gives the Palestinian people only 11.5 percent of their occupied territories.

Question: What is your opinion about the autonomy plan in the West Bank?

Answer: The autonomy plan is not a full autonomy but an administrative one, because full autonomy has no basis in their proposals. We have reached a point where we would accept anything to end occupation. Had something logical been offered us, we would have agreed to it. Autonomy means to govern, and administration is a very different matter. Then the issue of settlements is worrying us. Could we, under the proposed autonomy plan, adopt decisions against the settlements? I believe that we cannot. We told this to Saunders.

In reply to a question on political trends in the West Bank, Al-Khatib said that there is no such thing as political trends in the West Bank. The people in the West Bank want to shake off occupation, and the voice of the majority has said this. There are two trends in the West Bank: An intransigent position and a moderate one. Besides these two, there exist no other political trends.

In case anyone heads a government under the occupation, he will be another Abu Raghal [Quisling] of Islamic history and will be considered an example of treason in modern Arab history. On the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog, Al-Khatib said that we welcomed the Jordanian-Palestinian meeting, which confirmed the national unity of the one people.

Question: What is your opinion about the latest visit by Robert Byrd to the occupied territories, and did you meet with him?

Answer: I did not meet with Byrd, even though an invitation was addressed to me to meet him in the western sector of Jerusalem. I refused to go there, but I agreed to meet him in Arab Jerusalem. I preferred to stay there and not to talk with him. I received U.S. envoy Saunders recently, but the meeting took place in Arab Jerusalem. My clinging to this stand stems from my position as governor of Jerusalem.

In reply to a question on the formation of a Palestinian government in exile, Al-Khatib said that he does not believe in the formation of a government in exile under any circumstance, because it does not serve the cause.

On his visit to the East Bank and the reasons behind such a visit, Al-Khatib said that the visit is to meet with Jordanian officials and to meet relatives.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN141253Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Dec 78 pp 1, 15 JN

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Excerpt] 'Abd al-Jawad Salih, member of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Amman day before yesterday from Oslo, the capital of Norway. Salih announced in an exclusive statement to the AD-DUSTUR correspondent that he will be a member of the PLO delegation which will arrive in Amman in the next few days to resume the PLO-Jordanian dialog which began in Amman 2 weeks ago.

WEST BANK MAYOR ARRIVES IN AMMAN SEEKING SUPPORT

JN141241Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Dec 78 p 16 JN

[Text] Amman--Qalqilyah Mayor Amin an-Nasir has arrived in Amman from the occupied West Bank for talks with Jordanian officials on support for the Qalqilyah municipality.

FRANCE TO WITHDRAW SOME TROOPS FROM LEBANON

ID1416402 Paris Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD

[Text] France is going to withdraw some of the soldiers it sent to Lebanon to join the UN force. The 600 Blue Helmets belonging to the 15th [word indistinct] will be back in France on 17 January. A logistics detachment of 500 men will, however, be kept on the spot.

INTERIOR MINISTER SALMAN CHAIRS SECURITY MEETING

NC1412552 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman this morning chaired a lengthy security meeting attended by officials from the Internal Security Forces Command, the Arab Deterrent Forces Command and the Army Command. The participants in the meeting discussed the security situation in the country, particularly in the capital, and the measures that have been taken to stop transgressions and violations.

Salman Statement

NC1413002 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Dec 78 NC

[Statement by Interior Minister Salah Salman following 14 December security meeting--recorded]

[Excerpt] A meeting was held this morning between officials of the Arab Deterrent Forces Command and the Directorate General of the Internal Security Forces to discuss the possibility of sending joint patrols of security forces and Arab Deterrent Forces. This was agreed upon in principle and the details will be worked out this afternoon. We hope that as of tomorrow the citizens will see joint patrols. We also hope that these patrols will succeed in their mission and will reduce the causes for complaint, which, regrettably, have increased recently.

Regarding the port, a topic which is important for many citizens and businessmen, I affirm that the security forces posts about we which spoke yesterday will be established tomorrow. I myself will inspect these posts. I will also invite Henry Far'awn [chairman of the Beirut Port Authority] to visit these posts. We hope that the port will be reopened in the near future after waiting for so long.

VOICE OF LEBANON: DANY SHAM'UN RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL

NC1505512 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 15 Dec 78 NC

[Text] A Lebanese officer of the Arab Deterrent Forces was killed and a Saudi soldier was wounded last night near the American University Hospital. This incident took place during an attempt to break the armed cordon which was imposed by a group of Palestinians, Al-Murabitun and Syrian Nationalists on the American University Hospital because Dany Sham'un, Joseph Apu Sharaf and Naril Nujaym were in the hospital room of Saudi Ambassador Maj Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir.

Intense Saudi-Lebanese contacts were carried out to obtain the release the three visitors. These contacts continued on the part of Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman, and Arab Deterrent Forces Commander Col Sami al-Khatib.

Following successive contacts, the mediators succeeded in inducing the armed men to move away from the area. At 0230 today Sham'un, Abu Sharaf, and Mujaym proceeded to the Museum area under an Arab Deterrent Forces escort. From the Museum area, these three persons enteres the eastern area of Beirut.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS INCIDENTS IN BEIRUT SUBURBS

NC141600Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 14 Dec 78 NC

[Text] The security situation was almost totally calm on all the traditional battle fronts today, except for a battle which raged in the Post Office-Flour Mills area at 1500 in which RPG rockets were used.

The Voice of Lebanon correspondent reported this afternoon that sniping has continued in Galerie Sim'an and the Chevrolet area, where the roads remain unsafe, particularly the Damascus-Al-Hazimiyah road, Ash-Shiyah Boulevard and the Galerie Sim'an traffic circle.

Two people--Samir 'Abdu an-Nur--were wounded in the Post Office-Flour Mills area but their condition is not serious.

INA: UN IRISH CONTINGENT CLASHES WITH RIGHTISTS

JN141441Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT 14 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 14 December--The Irish forces operating with UNIFIL clashed at noon today with Maj Sa'd Haddad's forces in the Bayt Yahun area in the central sector of southern Lebanon. The INA correspondent in the south reports that preliminary information indicates that four UNIFIL personnel were wounded during the clash, which is still in progress and which erupted because the rightist militias had blocked off several roads there.

In another development, the INA correspondent reports that two Zionist gunboats commandeered at noon today the Lebanese commercial vessel Hala. This action took place on the high seas off the coast of the southern town of Sidon.

INA: U.S. ADVISES SARKIS TO POSTPONE VISIT

JN151052Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 December--Reports published here today say the U.S. administration advised President Ilyas Sarkis to postpone his visit to the United States which was due to take place this month.

Reporting this today, the newspaper AL-'AMAL, organ of the rightist Phalangist Party, says that the U.S. administration advised Sarkis to postpone his visit until after the Egyptian-Zionist talks. The paper points out that the visit might take place at the beginning of next year.

SHAM'UN SEES 'COMMUNIST PINCER' ON MIDDLE EAST

LD1409337 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 8 Dec 78 pp 19, 20 LD

[Rajih Khuri interview with former Lebanese President Camille Sham'un in Beirut--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] AL-HAWADITH interviewed you in November 1976 when the country was experiencing security and political disturbances which everybody recalls. Now it is interviewing you again 2 years later when conditions are not much different. What, Your Excellency, is the difference between the "conditions" 2 years ago and those of today?

Smiling, he replied: The atmosphere of the battle has changed. Two years ago the battle was with the Palestinians, and now it is with the Syrians who are supposed to maintain the cease-fire between the Lebanese and the Palestinians and to deal with security matters correctly and by showing respect for Lebanese conditions. They are supposed to be the means to bring about unity not disunity, and should not get involved in politics aimed at encouraging Lebanese elements that are loyal to the present Syrian regime. Syria is particularly required not to pursue the policy of division and not to apply the well-known "divide and conquer" principle. This, briefly, is what has happened in Lebanon in the past 2 years, which have witnessed bloody incidents as well as the destruction of the eastern quarters of Beirut and many mountain villages.

[Question] But don't you think that in 2 years political conditions have come full circle? That is, they have changed from war against the Palestinians to a dialog with them.

[Answer] The fact of the matter is that a dialog began between the Palestinians and the Lebanese in a calm and amicable atmosphere which could lead to an understanding. During the dialog we submitted the Lebanese viewpoint. I can say that there was partial agreement in principle on all matters discussed. But on the second or third day of the meeting [with Palestinians], we were surprised by opposition on the part of the Syrian authorities. They opposed any dialog or agreement that might be reached between the Palestinians and the Lebanese. This Syrian opposition stems from the policy which I have just mentioned, namely the policy of divide and conquer.

[Question] Walid al-Khalidi [leading Palestinian academician and head of the Palestinian Research Institute] claims that the purpose of his visit to your excellency was to undo any existing or potential link between the Lebanese Front and Israel. What is your opinion on this?

[Answer] No such question was discussed because there is no link between us and Israel. To be more precise, there is no link between us and Israel that would prevent understanding with the Palestinians on the principles discussed during the dialog we held with them.

[Question] A storm--which has not yet settled--was raised following your recent statement in which you called for partiiton or a federal system as a minimum demand. Do you believe, Mr President, that such a proposal can serve harmony among the Lebanese?

[Answer] I believe that those who object to a federal system have been overcome by emotionalism and unsound thinking. They want to ignore the reality in Lebanon, particularly the reality which the past 4 years have confirmed. I am afraid that this ignorance or disregard of reality may lead to partition. This partition exists despite the existence of a legitimate government whose authority is fictitious, no more no less. All the causes of division still exist. We disagree on cultural matters. We disagree on universities, schools and education. We disagree on budget allocation and the army law as well as on appointments to senior and minor posts. These disagreements have continued since 1942, but they came to a head during the past 4 years.

[Question] Your Excellency, you recently stated that you have information regarding the smuggling of arms to Saudi Arabia. Can you further clarify such information?

[Answer] It is not possible to clarify it any further because of secrecy. But this matter has been proved to us in the light of information available to us. I link the smuggling of arms to Saudi Arabia with previous arms smuggling to Iran. I previously said--on 10 July 1978--that there is a big communist pincer, one part of which is Afghanistan and Iran and the other is the Horn of Africa. Both sides of the pincer threaten the security of the Arabian Peninsula and all the vast wealth it contains. This pincer operates in two manners: interdependence from abroad and subversion from within.

[Question] Is such smuggling taking place via Lebanon?

[Answer] Unfortunately the smuggling is taking place through certain Lebanese areas. The continued arms smuggling to Saudi Arabia poses a direct danger to us. It is necessary that we act to confront such sabotage.

[Question] This is the final and last question: How does the Lebanese problem stand now?

[Answer] The Lebanese problem is in the hands of the Syrians. I feel that if they withdraw from Lebanon the situation will soon return to normal and relations between Lebanon and Syria will revert to normal, as between two neighboring countries. I believe that the Syrians must understand this and must not become involved in policies contrary to such a policy, which is the only wise policy that takes the future of both countries into consideration.

TISHRIN COMMENTS ON VANCE'S CURRENT MIDEAST VISIT

JN141303Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Dec 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Writing in TISHRIN under the headline "The Separate Peace and Vance's Ideas," Yusuf Maqdisi speaks about the method the United States has been employing in its mediation between the Egyptian and Zionist regimes. The general line followed by this method, Maqdisi says, is to hold secret talks, leak rumors to cause political confusion and then surprise the world with results contrary to all expectations.

But if we consider the commitments which As-Sadat has made since signing the second Sinai agreement in September 1975 and his repeated assertions about pursuing his initiative to the end regardless of all obstacles, we find they all indicate that As-Sadat was proceeding toward a separate peace even if the other parties concerned rejected the American solution. Therefore, the so-called differences between the Egyptian and Israeli sides, especially after As-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem seeking peace under Israeli terms, have no basis, Maqdisi said.

The author concludes by saying that if the United States is now ready to proceed toward the declaration of the separate peace, then As-Sadat is also ready to sign it. But will the ideas which Secretary Vance has brought withstand future developments, now that the settlement dilemma has become essentially an American dilemma following the broadening of the Arab rejectionist front against the Camp David agreements?

AL-BA'TH ATTACKS SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMAYRI

JN151050Y Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 14 Dec 78 p 3 JN

[Article by Muhammad Mansur in the "Behind the Events" column: "A Phenomenon That Should Be Faced"]

[Excerpts] Some Arab regimes have recently been trying to escape from or actually disavow the fact that the Palestine question is a pan-Arab issue and not a regional issue restricted to the Palestinian people or to any single Arab people.

Anwar as-Sadat has voluntarily agreed to implement an Israeli-American dream to neutralize Egypt, which forms a major element in the confrontation with the enemy. Meanwhile, there are some other Arab regimes which have not declared their disavowal of the Arabism of the Palestine question but at the same time have adopted the principle that says "each of us should solve his own problems." What really draws attention here is the suspicious stand of President Numayri of fraternal Sudan. For the president of that fraternal country is not only supporting the treacherous policies of the Egyptian ruler but is leading a campaign of instigation and defamation against the Arab nation and Arab plans.

The day before yesterday President Numayri attacked the resolutions of the Rabat and Algiers summits. He described those resolutions as too rigid and too inflexible to accept agreements like Camp David. So President Numayri wants the Rabat and Algiers resolutions to be "flexible" and "modern" and to follow As-Sadat's way.

Furthermore, President Numayri sees Arab solidarity as an obstacle to "peace efforts." President Numayri is following the steps of As-Sadat, who has used Arab solidarity to gain all the political and financial benefits until this solidarity has become completely useless to him. Now President Numayri is back to say: Arab solidarity forms an obstacle to the "peace efforts." While talking about solidarity, we would like to remind President Numayri that once he was chairman of the "Arab Solidarity Committee." We would like to remind him that he used to travel from one place to another calling for Arab solidarity.

This would explain why President Numayri did not attent the Baghdad Arab summit and instead delegated his ambassador in "Cairo" to attend that conference, for the Arab summit firmly declared rejection of the Camp David agreements. Moreover, it reiterated that the Palestine question could not be divided. Arab conferees reaffirmed that Arab solidarity is the effective weapon with which to confront the enemies of our nation. Such resolutions were not appreciated by President Numayri and others like him.

The president of fraternal Sudan visited the United States immediately after the Camp David agreements were signed. At that time President Numayri was asked to comment on the Camp David agreements. He answered: The agreements have been forwarded to the constitutional departments for study and a final decisive view.... After 2 weeks of procrastination the official spokesman of President Numayri declared that there are "positive" points in the Camp David agreements and that those positive points should be supported. That Sudanese spokesman was speaking on behalf of the Sudanese constitutional departments.

However, it has been determined that the real viewpoints of the constitutional departments were completely contradictory to what was announced. The Sudanese constitutional departments were against the Camp David agreements and called for confronting and foiling them. The Sudanese masses and students called secret and announced meetings to declare to the whole world their firm rejection of the Camp David agreements.

This phenomenon of President Numayri reconfirms what Syria has been saying lately: that the Camp David agreements are aimed at splitting the Arab nation, tearing the Arab ranks apart and liquidating the Palestine question.

In light of all this the Arab nation is asked to study the phenomenon of President Nuamyri and those like him and to adopt decisive means to fight such phenomena. One more thing to emphasize: Such phenomena represent only the owners; however, not even the owners will benefit from such phenomena.

## ALGERIA

### OPPOSITION GROUP URGES END TO BOUMEDIENE REGIME

LD141551Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 4 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[MAP report: "The National Union for Freedom and Democracy Supports the Opposition in Exile and Condemns Boumediene's Totalitarian Regime"]

[Text] Algiers, 4 December--The National Union for Freedom and Democracy [UNLD] called Saturday for "an end to the usurpation of the Algerian people's sovereignty."

In a leaflet whose distribution has been restricted to a few people, the UNLD expresses the view that "breaking with the Boumediene regime" remains the only valid solution if the country and people are to be led toward certain and harmonious development and are to enjoy real prosperity and complete freedom. The "provisional national directorate," which signed the leaflet, recalls that it has unceasingly denounced "totalitarian power" and "the seriousness of the country's economic, social, cultural and political situation" in its "December 1976 document" and its newspaper FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY.

The UNLD program can be reduced to three points: liquidation of Boumediene's dictatorial regime; "national unity"; and "election of a sovereign constituent assembly." These demands are similar to those of the external opposition.

## LIBYA

### LEADERS CONFER WITH VISITING IRAQI OFFICIAL

LD141434Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Libyan Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki conferred at the Foreign Secretariat this morning with Na'im Haddad, member of the Regional Command of the Ba'th Party and of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, who is now in Libya. They reviewed the current Arab situation and international issues of mutual interest. During the meeting, which was attended by Iraq's ambassador to Libya, ways and means of guaranteeing the strengthening of relations and the development of cooperation between Libya and Iraq in all areas were discussed.

### Jallud Given Iraqi President's Message

LD141656Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud this morning received at the People's Palace brother Na'im Haddad, member of the Regional Command of the Ba'th Party and member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, who handed Staff Major Jallud a message addressed to brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution, from his brother, Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, concerning current developments in the Arab situation.

During the meeting, which was attended by Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki and the brother ambassador of Iraq to Libya, developments in the Arab situation following the Baghdad Arab summit conference to confront the results of the Camp David agreements and capitulationist concessions in the Arab region were discussed.

Haddad Ends Visit to Libya

ID150948Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Dec 78 ID

[Excerpt] Tripoli--Na'im Haddad, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, left Tripoli last night at the end of his 2-day visit to the Jamahiriyah.

PDRY DEFENSE MINISTER DEPARTS AFTER VISIT

ID141334Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Dec 78 ID

[Excerpt] Colonal 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, member of the Presidential Council and PDRY minister of defense, left Tripoli this morning at the end of his several-day visit to Libya.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN VISITING FRANCE 'FOR HEALTH REASONS'

ID141330Y Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 14 Dec 78 ID

[Text] Fes, 14 Dec (MAP)--Morocco's King Hassan reported here Wednesday that he would be [as received] visiting France for health reasons. As a consequence the ministers' council that the king was to preside over, did not take place.

SOVIET FISH INDUSTRY MINISTER ENDS 11-DAY VISIT

LD143340Y Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 14 Dec 78 ID

[Text] Rabat, 14 Dec (MAP)--The Soviet fisheries minister Aleksandr Ishkov, left here Wednesday for Moscow after an eleven-day visit to Morocco. Ishkov declared that King Hassan gives an important interest to the development of Moroccan fishing resources which will allow" an increase of Moroccan-Soviet cooperation in this field." The Soviet minister also said that his meeting with fishing officials provided him with a realistic approach to the problems in this sector in the Moroccan economy. Ishkov added that "Soviet experts and Moroccan statesmen examined the possibilities for building a canning and freezing industrial complex to increase fish exports from Morocco."

MOROCCO TRYING 'TO MEDIATE' BETWEEN EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA

JN141306Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 14 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 14 December--The JNA correspondent in Cairo has learned that Morocco is trying to mediate between Egypt and Saudi Arabia aimed at holding a meeting between Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat and Saudi King Khalid or his crown prince.

Within the framework of this mediation, Egyptian Vice Premier Hasan at-Tuhami paid two visits to Morocco last week after which the envoy of King Hassan II of Morocco was dispatched to Riyadh.

## SUDAN

### PRESIDENT NUMAYRI RECEIVES LETTER FROM AS-SADAT

JN141452Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 14 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 14 December--President Numayri today received a letter from Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat dealing with the latest developments in the peace talks and Egyptian views on the negotiations. The letter was delivered by the Sudanese ambassador in Cairo.

It is noteworthy that President as-Sadat yesterday sent Vice President Husni Mubarak to brief President Numayri on the developments in the peace negotiations.

### NUMAYRI GIVES MESSAGE TO UK, U.S., SAUDI ENVOYS

LD132218Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Dec 78 LD/EA

[Summary] In Khartoum this afternoon, President Numayri received the British ambassador, to whom he delivered a message addressed to the British Government. They also discussed bilateral relations.

Later the president received the U.S. ambassador to Khartoum, to whom he delivered a message addressed to President Carter. The meeting dealt with certain details of projects which the U.S. Government intends to implement in Sudan. Bilateral relations were also discussed.

The president later received the Saudi charge d'affaires, to whom he delivered a message to King Khalid on bilateral relations.

## TUNISIA

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BEGINS DEBATE ON DEFENSE BUDGET

LD150008Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD

[Summary] The National Assembly has begun the debate on the defense budget for the new year. The National Defense Ministry's budget for the new year records an increase of 6.44 percent. Estimated allocations for the new budget are 40.3 million Tunisian dinars, an increase of 5.16 million dinars, representing 14.6 percent in comparison with last year's budget. [as heard] This information was given in the report of the second subcommittee on the draft budget for 1979.

In his meeting with the members of the committee, Defense Minister Farhat explained that the duties of the Coast Guard had doubled. He then spoke in praise of the national service law and the contribution made by national service to development programs. The minister then replied to questions put by deputies.

BEGIN REPORTS CABINET REJECTION OF U.S.-EGYPTIAN DEMANDS

TA151158Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1140 GMT 15 Dec 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Over now to our political correspondent Shalom Qital at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem:

[Qital--live] We are at the prime minister's office, and Prime Minister Menahem Begin came down at this very minute with the announcement of the cabinet. Mr Prime Minister, please.

[Begin--live] The Government of Israel is willing to sign without delay the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel with all its addendas, as it was formulated on 11 November 1978, also on behalf of the Government of the United States. The total responsibility for the nonsigning of the peace treaty rests on the Government of Egypt.

2. This week, in contacts between the two countries, through the secretary of state of the United States, Egypt submitted to Israel new demands as follows:

A) Making the exchange of ambassadors contingent on the implementation of the autonomy, at least in the Gaza district;

B) A fundamental change in Article IV of the peace treaty, which entails discussing a revision of the security arrangements in Sinai after 5 years;

C) A letter of interpretation for Article VI, which cancels its meaning.

D. The setting of a date, called the goal date, for the implementation of the autonomy in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza.

3. These demands deviate from the Camp David agreement or are not included in it, and they fundamentally change the contents of the aforementioned peace treaty. For this reason they are unacceptable to Israel and are being rejected by it.

4. The Government of Israel rejects the U.S. stand and interpretation to the Egyptian proposals.

5. The letter on the arrangements of the autonomy are open to clarifications and reassessment.

Begin Answers Questions

TA151211Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1142 GMT 15 Dec 78 TA

[News conference by Prime Minister Menahem Begin outside his office in Jerusalem--live]

[Text] [Qital] Mr Prime Minister, it is now quite clear that it will be very difficult to sign the peace treaty by 17 December, the day after tomorrow. How do you think the contacts will continue from this point?

[Begin] The Israeli Government is prepared to make any contact, to hold any negotiations in order to effect the signing of a peace treaty. We certainly regret that the peace treaty will not be signed by 17 December. Were this dependent on us, it would have been signed several weeks ago or this week, at the latest on Sunday. It never was nor is it now dependent on us. Everything was dependent on Egypt's position, and Egypt's position, including its new demands, prevented us meeting the date.

However, there is no sanctity attached to any particular date. At Camp David, we agreed on 3 months and President as-Sadat and I spoke about 2 months. Nothing tragic has happened. We have to continue to negotiate until we can sign--as I hope we will--the peace treaty between the two countries.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, will the U.S. position, as recently manifested by the President, make future negotiations more difficult?

[Begin] The position as manifested by the administration is a one-sided position. All one-sided positions make things difficult and we hope for a change in this position.

[Unidentified correspondent] How do you explain the erosion in the U.S. position?

[Begin] There is no need to explain. This is a fact that we are facing. I assume that certain events that have taken place in the Middle East, including and perhaps especially the Baghdad conference, played a certain part. We hope for a change in the wake of these events because, in their wake, Israel's role in the campaign of the free world takes on much greater importance than in the past and I hope that all elements in the United States, in the administration, in the Congress and public opinion--as we have learned from the letter of nearly 200 of the U.S. Army's former most senior commanders--will understand the special and important role that the State of Israel plays and will act to increase its strength rather than reduce it.

[Unidentified correspondent] [mostly indistinct question on the possibility of another summit]

[Begin] We have no knowledge of this. If there is an invitation, we will accept.

[Qital] Mr Begin, I understand that you will contact the United States to inform it of these decisions. What do you expect will happen?

[Begin] We have already done this and we have informed the U.S. ambassador of the content of these decisions.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will there be any new settlement activities after 17 December?

[Begin] This will be discussed by the cabinet and the cabinet will make appropriate decisions.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, what are the chances of the treaty being signed in the wake of the cabinet's decision?

[Begin] This is a question which is unnecessary to answer. We have already determined who is responsible for the peace treaty not being signed. The name of the country responsible is Egypt.

[Unidentified correspondent] In the points that you have mentioned, are there any among those that Egypt has raised which are open to discussion, or are there some to which the term "over our dead bodies" appear?

[Begin] First of all, I do not agree with the term "over our dead bodies" because, as a learned man, you certainly know this term applies only to three things. On the contrary, I say "Over our live bodies." We will live and we will not accept these points as I have listed them. We will continue to strive for the signing of a peace treaty.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, can you determine how long the respite will last and will U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance return here after Christmas?

[Begin] I cannot answer this question. You came a day too late. You should have asked the secretary of state yesterday.

IDF RADIO AIRS DISCUSSION ON VANCE MISSION

TA141857Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 14 Dec 78 TA

[From the IDF Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] Let us now return to political matters. The race against the clock being run by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in an attempt to bring about the signing of the peace treaty by this Sunday has come to a halt, even if only temporarily. Secretary of State Vance is due to leave the area tomorrow and voices are already being heard in Cairo blaming Israel for the crisis. Here with us in our Jerusalem studio is MA'ARIV political correspondent Yosef Harif. With us in Tel Aviv is our commentator on Arab affairs 'Oded Geranot. Yosi 'Abadi, our political correspondent, over to you:

['Abadi] Well, as we heard at the beginning of the broadcast there is a certain understanding between the Americans and the Egyptians, and it seems that this line has been repeated throughout the negotiations, Why, in fact, is there a gap between the views of the United States and Israel and why is there actually a U.S. understanding of the Egyptian demands, Yosef Harif?

[Harif] It seems to me that this is obvious. The United States is attributing the loss not where the loss occurred, but where it thinks the light can be found. The United States believes that it is easier to put pressure on Israel. In any case, things are being directed--the pressure is applied--against Israel. As far as I understood from what you said, 'Abadi, when you began your remarks you quoted a U.S. source, and it is not hard to guess who it is who says that, all in all, the Egyptian demands--i.e., the things they are insisting upon--are not so important and not significant. If I am not mistaken, that was the way you put it, right? I would say that perhaps the point is that, if it is not significant and not so important, then why should Israel be the one to concede? Why can Egypt not compromise? After all, the U.S. secretary of state tried to persuade Israel to accept what is already called the formulation of 11 November--the day on which the two delegations, that of Israel and that of Egypt, agreed in Washington on the draft treaty, the one which was publicly released and which Israel accepted despite its reservations. Vance said that if Israel demands the reopening of the treaty, then the Egyptians will also demand this. Therefore, he insists on Israel giving up its reservations. And this was indeed done by Israel. After all, it is logical to assume that the United States should have by now influenced the other side to do the same. Then, as the prime minister and Dayan said, it would be possible to get down to signing the treaty.

Therefore, I would not heed those U.S. sources, who want to use brainwashing as one of the opening moves in the war for public opinion. For example, President Carter saying that As-Sadat is a bighearted man and very generous and that he has made most of the concessions, and his saying that Israel, in effect, has not done enough. I would only complete this idea by noting that this fits in with remarks made by Senator Byrd, the leader of the Democratic majority who was here in Israel and began to study--with or without quotation marks--the nongranting of aid if Israel does not surrender, and that this fits in with President Carter's beginning to study--with or without quotation marks--whether there is a possibility that no agreement will be reached and that we will be responsible for the results. I would say in regard to those sources you quoted, 'Abadi, that it appears to me that there may be two reasons for the remarks: 1. The war for public opinion, as I have already said. 2. And I hope that this is the real reason: That they [the sources] have, all of them, been somewhat deterred by the strength of the Israeli reaction as it was expressed forcefully, by both the prime minister and the foreign minister this morning in talks with Vance.

It must have appeared to them that, in order to permit any sort of softening on the Egyptian side, they had to show that it is not so significant and that it is possible somehow or other to compromise on it.

[Unidentified voice] 'Oded Geranot, in the chemistry between the Americans and the Egyptians, if we can call it that, is there any significance to more trenchant Egyptian diplomacy?

[Geranot] I will give a simple reply to that question. It seems to me that the Americans, if one can put it this way, have almost always gone along with the Egyptians and the impression the Egyptians have succeeded in creating, quite cleverly, is one of significant concessions on their part. And I specifically say "concessions" in quotation marks. Well, in what way did they respond to the Americans? They agreed not to reopen the treaty. The Americans wanted very much not to reopen the treaty--we have already heard about this--and they agreed not to link the withdrawal with the establishment of the autonomy. That is to say, the IDF withdrawal will take place after 9 months and the autonomy after 12 months, i.e., roughly in December 1979. Well, superficially, this is moving toward the Americans, but--and this perhaps is the main point--they played the game about the normalization of relations. Well, the normalization--i.e., the exchange of ambassadors--should have been a month after the completion of the first stage of the withdrawal, but if everything is to be postponed, as the Egyptians want, if there is to be a synchronization of a timetable, then the normalization will come after the autonomy, after the autonomy institutions are established. This is certainly a new Egyptian demand which is definitely unacceptable. The point here is that the Egyptians have apparently succeeded in convincing the Americans that both these demands--the matter of Article VI and that of the linkage--are demands that are completely pan-Arab in nature, that is, that Egypt must get Israeli concessions on both these issues or it cannot sign the treaty. And it is my impression that the Americans are certainly leaning toward accepting this Egyptian position.

['Abadi] If you were to sum up Vance's tour, Yosef Harif, would you say that anything has been achieved from the American viewpoint?

[Harif] From the American viewpoint, I think that not only has nothing been achieved, but I think that, without paying any attention to what the nature of the approaching confrontation between Israel and the United States might be, the United States made a mistake here, and it will feel it because U.S. diplomacy over the last year has succeeded to no small extent for the reason that there have been deep differences of opinion among the Israeli people. Let us not sneer at this. The Peace Now Movement had no small influence on the results of Camp David, i.e., on that amount of moderation shown by the Israeli team headed by the prime minister. Now, by virtue of the fact that Israel is being pushed into a corner, a man like Abba Eban says that he would like superfluous settlement activity today even if only to show that the United States cannot dictate conditions. This is possibly a sign of just how much unity there is behind the government in regard to the rejection of these Egyptian demands which, as 'Oded said quite rightly, are unacceptable. This unity goes beyond the support which the government has enjoyed up to now, and so I do not believe that the Americans thought things through to the end. Rather, they were dragged behind the Egyptians out of fear that As-Sadat would somehow or other escape their grasp. And As-Sadat, who understood this, saw how time--17 December--was pressing Carter. In this way, As-Sadat succeeded in pulling the United States over to his side.

['Abadi] Yes, the problem now is what is expected. Jerusalem found it hard to explain whether the reference was to a dead end or whether there is a possibility of a continuation of the negotiations. 'Oded, do you think that the Egyptians put forward the demands as a tactic to end the negotiations or does it indicate a hardening of positions?

[Geranot] Well, in this context, I would lean toward making a distinction between the two substantive issues; that of the linkage and Article VI and that of the additional demands the Egyptians have made, such as the demand for a change in Article IV, which is basically an Egyptian issue in contrast to the first two issues which are pan-Arab in nature. In contrast with certain views which were prevalent in Israel some weeks ago to the effect that the Egyptians made the demand to change Article VI as a basis for a compromise with Israel at a later stage--i.e., that Egypt would drop that demand provided that Israel accepted the timetable regarding the withdrawal--it seems to me that these two demands are substantive ones from Egypt's viewpoint, and I see no willingness on the part of the Egyptians to make their positions more flexible on this issue. It may be that the Egyptians will show flexibility in regard to Article IV, but not on the first two issues which, as Yosef Harif said, Israel cannot accept.

[Unidentified voice] Gentlemen, our time is running short. I want to say thank you to MA'ARIV political commentator Yosef Harif, to our commentator, 'Oded Geranot, and also to our political correspondent, Yosi 'Abadi.

VANCE, DAYAN STATEMENTS AT BEN-GURION AIRPORT REPORTED

TA141757Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Dec 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance left Israel less than an hour ago for Cairo to hold meetings with President As-Sadat, meetings which will take place tonight and tomorrow morning. At Ben-Gurion Airport, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and senior officials of the Israeli Foreign Ministry bid Vance farewell. Our correspondent Avraham Lalo was also at the airport.

[Begin recording] [Lalo] It was hard to guess what was in the hearts of U.S. Secretary of State Vance and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who stood before the battery of microphones. Their faces were expressionless. They thanked each other politely for the friendly hospitality and the great efforts made. After words of thanks, Cyrus Vance said:

[Vance--in English] As all of you know, the cabinet will be meeting tomorrow to discuss the question of the peace negotiations and the next steps to be taken. I shall be keeping in very close touch with the foreign minister as soon as the cabinet meeting has concluded and will be following the matter with him. All of us continue to share the deep conviction and hope that we can and will achieve a peace settlement, a just and lasting peace. Thank you.

[Lalo translates the above into Hebrew and notes:] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan told Cyrus Vance that he hopes Vance's talks in Cairo tonight and tomorrow will be successful and of benefit to both the Egyptians and us.

[Dayan--in English] Tomorrow, after the cabinet meeting, we will be able to tell him more about the decision of our government and I am sure that we will find a way to advance the peace progress.

[Lalo translates the above into Hebrew and adds:] Both foreign ministers were asked the same question: Is 17 December still the deadline for the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt? Dayan said: I would not bind myself to a timetable. The reference here is to content and not to dates. In my view, the chances of signing the agreement are good, without our mentioning dates. Vance replied briefly: I do not think anyone of us is capable of guessing when the negotiations will end, neither do I think that such a guess would do any good. [end recording]

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES ASSESS EGYPTIAN ATTITUDES

TA141531Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Diplomatic sources noted today that the president of Egypt is prepared to effect diplomatic links with Israel right after the signing of the peace treaty, but it will not exchange ambassadors before the autonomy institutions are established. The diplomatic sources said that As-Sadat stipulated this condition in reaction to Israel's refusal to accelerate the process of the first withdrawal from the Sinai and the evacuation of Al-'Arish. The diplomatic sources emphasized that Cyrus Vance's return to Washington should not be regarded as an indication of the cessation of the negotiations. Just the contrary, the sources stressed that the United States is waiting for the Government of Israel's decision before the negotiations continue.

Our political correspondent Shalom Qital points out that the diplomatic sources said that there was a commitment by both sides to continue the peace talks. They see Egyptian flexibility in the fact that As-Sadat is no longer demanding a precise date for the establishment of the autonomy, but is satisfying himself with a target date. The sources do not attach great importance to the Egyptian demands concerning the reexamination of the conditions of the agreement after 6 years. In their view, this demand was intended to meet As-Sadat's internal requirments and to protect him against criticism within his country regarding damage to Egyptian sovereignty over Sinai.

PERES PESSIMISTIC AFTER TALK WITH VANCE

TA141424Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Dec 78 TA

[Text] After talking with Secretary of State Vance, MK Shim'on Peres said that he felt that it would not be possible to sign the peace treaty by 17 December, but that he nevertheless believed that the contacts between the sides would continue. He told our correspondent Razi Barqay that it seemed to him that there was an appreciable hardening in Egypt's position, particularly after it had bound the exchange of diplomatic representatives with the timetable for the autonomy. The chairman of the Labor Party thinks that President Carter's remarks last night are proof of the fact that the administration is mobilizing U.S. public opinion against Israel. In his remarks, Carter repeatedly praised the president of Egypt and said that he was acting very generously.

RABIN DISCUSSES TARGET DATE, FUTURE AUTONOMY

TA142125Y Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2030 GMT 14 Dec 78 TA

[Text] MK Yizhaq Rabin said on Thursday evening that if the matter of a target date regarding the establishment of the autonomy in December 1979 remained the only matter in dispute between Israel and Egypt, it should not be regarded as a matter of "cross it at your peril".

Rabin, who was interviewed by IDF radio correspondent Shelomo Perez, pointed out, however, that "if the government can achieve a change regarding this date, which was agreed upon by the Israeli delegation at the Washington talks, it will be blessed."

Referring to Article VI of the peace treaty, Rabin said that Israel must insist on its remaining as it was written, but an answer must be found to the legitimate Egyptian claim regarding its being accused by Arab countries of abandoning all the other Arab nations to Israeli. Therefore, in Rabin's view, Israel must again declare its commitment to the cease-fire agreements between it and the Arab countries.

The former prime minister said that the autonomy, as it is being interpreted by the Arab world, including the inhabitants of the territories, has created hopes for the establishment of an independent Palestinian entity which will lead to an Arafatist-Palestinian state. However, Rabin cast doubts on the possibility of reaching an agreement which would prevent the creation of a vipers' nest of terror during the period of the autonomy. Israel must guarantee that in future it will have complete control over the conduct of any campaign against terror, since an atmosphere of terror would make it difficult to have relations with Egypt.

AMBASSADOR DINITZ CRITICIZES U.S. STAND IN PEACE TALKS

TA150814Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Israel's ambassador in the United States is levelling criticism at the stand adopted by Washington at this stage of the negotiations. Ambassador Dinitz told our correspondent Dan Eshel that Washington identifies with the position of the Egyptian party, which is an unprecedented act in the midst of negotiations. He stressed that Israel approved the U.S. draft as it had been submitted, whereas it was Egypt which introduced amendments into it. These amendments are substantial, Dinitz said, and the cabinet is discussing them now. Dinitz made the statement on departing to return to his post in Washington.

POST CRITICIZES U.S. STAND, VANCE'S W. BANK VISIT

TA150938Y Jerusalem POST in English 15 Dec 78 p 16 TA

[Editorial]

[Excerpts] Once again the peace negotiations have lurched to a halt. And once again the United States has determined that Israel is to blame. It is a determination that the Carter administration does not keep locked in diplomatic cables, but rather takes pains to make public in the most direct fashion.

Perhaps when the negotiations process first got started, and after the U.S. overcame its initial reluctance for something less than its favored "Geneva" comprehensive settlement idea, the Carter administration sought to play the role of an honest broker. But in the months that followed, and most notably, and most surprisingly, after the Camp David agreements, the U.S. role has become vividly partisan in favour of Egypt.

Certainly there are many elements of Israel's negotiating performance that bear criticism. Nowhere has the criticism, whether from the right or the left of the government, or even sometimes from within the government, been more incisive than in Israel itself.

But confronted with the kind of partisanship being exhibited by the U.S., such criticism at home becomes largely irrelevant. For the U.S. attempt to publicly bludgeon Israel into an agreement, and its consistent support of As-Sadat's twists and turns has now become a principal issue in itself.

Throughout the negotiations, As-Sadat has always upped the ante. Agreement at one stage, has inevitably led to new conditions at the next. And the U.S. has also consistently then placed itself with As-Sadat.

By the same token, lack of agreement at any stage has also led to stiffer conditions by Egypt at the next, also with U.S. support.

The result has been that whether Israel held out or conceded to Egyptian demands, the price of agreement for Israel has consistently risen, endorsed by the U.S.

If this pattern shows faulty negotiating strategy on Israel's part, it also exhibits the lack of symmetry which has burdened the government. The asymmetry is now not confined to the megotiating process itself. It has apparently affected attitudes in Washington as well.

Israel is warned by President Carter against settlement activity. But there is a strange silence in Washington when Cairo proclaims that despite any treaty with Israel, Egypt would honour its commitments to other Arab states in hostilities with Israel.

And yesterday, in what must be considered at best patronizing disdain and at worst a deliberate snub, the secretary of state went to the West Bank without even informing the government.

True Israel is heavily dependent upon the U.S. in manifold ways. And true as well there is a firm bedrock of amity, understanding the mutual confidence between the two countries.

But no less true, the Israel Government and its people are confronted today by issues and decisions that go to the very heart of the physical existence of the state. They will not be bullied into jeopardizing that existence even if the bull resides in Washington.

MK ATTACKS 'DENIGRATION CAMPAIGN' AGAINST ISRAEL

TA151113Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 15 Dec 78 TA

[Red Telephone program]

[Text] Hello to you. This is Zevi Rimon here.

The Knesset Likud faction chairman, MK Avraham Sharir, today strongly attacked what he terms an unprecedented denigration campaign now being waged against Israel on the initiative of the President of the United States, Jimmy Carter. Knesset Member Sharir says the wave of these unfounded accusations should be repelled at once. Carter wants to blame Israel for the crisis in the talks with Egypt, Sharir says. He suggests immediately launching a large-scale information campaign throughout the world and particularly in the United States. The cabinet must explain its position and be candid in trying to settle the points of controversy.

MINISTER SHARON DISCUSSES SETTLEMENT PLANS

TA142149Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Dec 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpts] The Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee today toured the new settlements in Samaria. The tour was initially set up by Minister of Agriculture Ari'el Sharon. Sharon told the members of the committee that he and the prime minister shared the view that no new settlements would now be established in Samaria. In contrast, new settlements would be established in the Golan Heights, in the Jordan Rift Valley and in the southern Gaza Strip along the Sinai border. Hundreds and thousands of new inhabitants should be added to the Samarian settlements now, Minister Sharon said. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh brings us further remarks made today on the tour of the Security and Foreign Affairs Committee:

[Ben-Melekh] You must put pressure on the government so that it will put additional territory at your disposal, Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon told the settlers of Ari'el--otherwise known as Haras--in Samaria. I am the only MAPAI [former rightwing of the Labor Party before the establishment of the Alinement] member in the cabinet, the minister said. By this he was trying to explain why the previous government was not afraid to annex thousands of dunams for settlement purposes, while the current government is, in his view, failing in this respect. In this government, Minister Sharon said, settlement can only be carried out by means of pressure and with slow progress. Reacting to demands by Ari'el settlers to develop industry there, Minister Sharon said that, to his regret, the government did not regard this as a national objective.

Only nine members of the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee took part today in the tour of the Samarian settlements. The remarks they made to the settlers were, of course, in accordance with the views of their parties.

MK Yiga'el Horowitz was caught by the enthusiasm of the settlers.

[Begin recording] [Horowitz] The settlements are growing here, where we are standing, in Allon More, there is industry which already employs about 60 percent of the inhabitants, and the desire to grow is great. In my view, the government must help everyone who wants to work here and who does not want to go to the coast. Everyone should have the opportunity to earn a living in this place. This is something wonderful. In particular, the people are optimistic and want to come here. [end recording]

[Ben-Melekh] Minister Sharon only joined the tour on its last stop, at Ari'el. He argued with the members of the Alinement on the committee and said that the government was led by a different view of security than that of the previous government. The road crossing Judaea and Samaria and the settlements which have been established in Samaria are no less and perhaps more important than the settlements in the Jordan Rift Valley. In Sharon's view, the Jordan Rift Valley has great security value since its link with the rest of the country is based on two narrow corridors in the north and south. This is envisaged in the Allon plan. Sharon also said that there was no possibility of stopping Arab building in the Jerusalem area and in other places in the country, and so the parts of the country that need to be defended should be encircled by strips of Israeli settlements.

Minister Sharon did not visit Gush Emunim settlements in Samaria today. His spokesman said there had been a mistake [as heard] in the political meetings in Jerusalem. In contrast, the Gush Emunim members said that Minister Sharon was afraid to visit them since they placed the responsibility for the development of the settlements on him and they also blame him for breaking his previous promises. We wanted to hear from the minister about which of the two versions was correct, but the minister flatly refused to answer questions by correspondents, despite the fact that they had been specially invited on the tour by his aides.

IDF EVACUATING EQUIPMENT FROM SINAI

TA142156Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Dec 78 TA

[Text] The IDF has already moved large quantities of military equipment from the frontline in the Sinai to the Negev and to other places in the country. Our military correspondent 'Amiram Nir reports that for some weeks now large-scale groundwork has been done on the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line--the line to which the IDF will retreat 9 months after the peace treaty is signed.

This work is intended to prepare an infrastructure for the camps and bases to be established on the new line after the withdrawal and to prepare roads to be used by the forces who will move into the area. Dozens of vehicles, heavy trucks and mechanical engineering equipment are taking part in the groundwork and also in the evacuation campaign.

Our military correspondent reports that there is no precise estimate of the cost of the work because most of it is being done by reserve units that have been called up for this purpose. However, experts have assessed the bulk of the work already done in millions of Israeli pounds. Military elements told our correspondent that the work was being done even before the treaty is signed in order to permit the army to stay within the short timetable for the withdrawal from the Sinai.

MK'S TO SUBMIT SOVEREIGNTY LAW ON SETTLEMENTS

TA141158Y Tel Avia MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 Dec 78 p 4 TA

[Text] Sixteen Knesset members from the Likud, the Alinement and the MAFDAL [want to]--guarantee the application of Israeli sovereignty in areas of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip where Jewish settlements are located.

These Knesset members, belonging to the hawkish groups in their factions, take this step in order to prevent a situation that will not make Israeli control of areas of Jewish settlements in the territories possible. This draft proposal was initiated by MK Yig'al Kohen-Orgad (Likud) and he was joined by Likud Knesset Members Moshe Arens, Ehud Olmert, Yosef Rom, Mikha'el Deqel, Etan Livni, Yiga'el Horowitz, Yig'al Kohen and Amnon Lin. From the Alinement Knesset Members Shelomo Hillel, Shoshanna Arbeli-Almozlino, Yehezqel Zakkay and 'Amos Hadar support the draft proposal. From the MAFDAL Knesset Members Yehuda Ben-Be'ir, Eli'ezer Avtabi and Sara Stern-Qatan signed the draft proposal.

The draft proposal states that the Israeli administration and jurisdiction should be extended to all Israeli citizens in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip and to all Israeli settlements in these areas. Every Israeli citizen has the right to purchase lands and settle in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Freedom of movement and economic activity of the Israeli citizens in these areas will also be guaranteed. Public lands will be controlled by the Israeli Government and it will be able to allocate them to Israeli citizens for settlement purposes. The water resources should be under the control of the Israeli Government. The IDF will be in charge of the security in these areas and will safeguard the well-being of the Israeli settlements and their inhabitants.

The initiators will bring this draft proposal for the approval of the coalition executive next week.

MILITARY AUTHORITIES DENY NEW SETTLEMENT BEING BUILT

TA141005Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Dec 78 p 8 TA

[By R. Ga'on]

[Text] The claims of Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa to the effect that Israel is building a new settlement near Khan Yunus are unfounded. I learned this from authoritative military circles.

Since the government has not yet approved Minister Ari'el Sharon's plan to set up an urban center or a town near Khan Yunus, no such center or town is being established nor will it be established before a decision is made--if such a decision is ever made. The only preparatory construction work now is for fleshing out one of the settlements in the Qatif settlements area.

It will be recalled that Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa turned to President as-Sadat a few days ago complaining to him that Israel is setting up another settlement in the Gaza Strip and asking him to intervene in the matter.

His son, Mansur ash-Shawwa, with whom I had a long talk, also told me that there is a great deal of indignation regarding this matter among the Gaza Strip residents, but, as noted above, the construction work seen in the area does not constitute the establishment of a new settlement.

CONCERN NOTED ON POSSIBLE PLO NAVAL OPERATIONS

TA150741Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 15 Dec 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Dozens of terrorists of the Fatah organization have recently completed a series of naval exercises in Syria and Lebanon and they are prepared to undertake strike missions against Israel at any time. This was revealed by Fatah's chief of operations and the man behind the naval strike preparations Khalil (al-Wazir), also known as 'Abu Jihad in a talk with Arab correspondents in Beirut.

Security sources in Israel view 'Abu Jihad's remarks with gravity, particularly in the light of the large amount of information which the security forces have obtained in their interrogations of the terrorists from the boobytrapped boat in Elat. The capture of the terrorists, who had intended to attack Elat with Katyushka rockets a few weeks ago, permitted the security forces to make a close study of the work methods of the terrorists who belong to the naval arm of Fatah. In addition, the combined security steps being taken along the country's coasts, which are intended to preclude any possibility of terrorist infiltration via the sea, are being improved.

MINISTER SAYS OIL RIGHTS IMPORTANT OBSTACLE

TA150905Y Jerusalem POST in English 15 Dec 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Energy Minister Yizhaq Moda'i yesterday said that Israel's conflict with Egypt over oil rights in the Gulf of Suez is one of the main issues stalling the signing of a peace treaty between the two countries.

He made the remark after talking yesterday afternoon with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance at the King David Hotel.

The minister reported that progress had been made toward settling the conflict. However, he cautioned that the peace talks could break down on the oil issue if the parties failed to resolve it. He did not elaborate.

Israel is reportedly insisting on a fixed quota of oil from fields it explored on the southwestern shores of the Sinai Peninsula. Egypt maintains that Israel will have no special oil rights once it relinquishes Sinai under the treaty.

AFP: CLASHES REPORTED IN CITY OF NAJAFABAD

TA141212Y Paris AFP in English 1202 GMT 14 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Esfahan, central Iran, Dec 14 (AFP)--Many people have been killed and wounded in clashes with troops in Najafabad near here today, opposition sources said. The clashes follow an army raid on a mosque there earlier this week and witnesses spoke of "harsh repression."

Townspeople who telephoned striking Iranian journalists in Tehran said "atrocious things have been happening here for two days now."

Najafabad, a town of 60,000 people about 50 kms (30 miles) from here, is a stronghold of anti-shah opposition.

Meanwhile, reports from elsewhere in Iran spoke of tension and incidents in large cities, including Mashhad in the northeast.

Foreign journalists here witnessed the army take violent steps to reassume control of the city on Tuesday and Wednesday after the anti-shah demonstrations on Sunday and Monday.

According to the official Iranian news agency PARS, two people died and 65 were injured here yesterday.

The capital Tehran was reportedly quiet following the massive weekend anti-shah demonstrations.

AFP: ARMY KILLS 18 IN SHIRAZ DEMONSTRATIONS

TA141615Y Paris AFP in English 1610 GMT 14 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Shiraz, south Iran, 14 Dec (AFP)--The army killed 18 people in violent demonstrations here last night, reliable sources said today. Opposition sources said that incidents which began Tuesday evening continued yesterday. Various witnesses reported that five soldiers entered the Saai hospital on Tuesday and requested staff and patients to shout pro-shah slogans. Following these incidents, Shiraz University staged a strike yesterday. Demonstrations were held and there were clashes with the army.

According to a doctor contacted by telephone, 18 bodies were brought to the Pahlavi University Hospital and identified by the victims' families. The doctor said a soldier was among the dead.

Today, soldiers were stationed at the entrance to the town and at nightfall motorists were still holding demonstrations in protest at the incidents of the past few days, reliable witnesses said.

TEHRAN REPORTS 14 DECEMBER PRO-SHAH DEMONSTRATIONS

LD141248Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Following the people's national and patriotic demonstrations in the past 2 days, thousands of people in Ghazian and Bandar-e Pahlavi, bearing aloft pictures of the prince of the pious, the holy 'Ali, peace be upon him, and those of the shahanshah, held national demonstrations again today. The national and patriotic demonstrations acquired vast dimensions in Ghazian this morning when they were joined by farmers from the area around Bandar-e Pahlavi, so much so that a large number of demonstrators went to Rasht, the center of Gilan Province, in order to reaffirm their loyalty to the constitution.

According to reports in hand in Bandar-e Farahnaz, in the towns of Lamijan and Siahkal, too, thousands of patriotic people from these areas, by holding national and patriotic demonstrations, declared their loyalty to the constitution and the shahanshah. Here, over 20,000 farmers from Fumenat region expressed their support in a petition for the shah and the constitution.

In Khorramshahr hundreds of Khorramshahr tribesmen, carrying pictures of the prince of the pious, the holy 'Ali, peace be upon him, also demonstrated and marched through several streets in the town center. Beneath a picture of the shahanshah two tribal chieftains in their speeches declared their loyalty to the shahanshah and the constitution and then flowers were tossed on the shahanshah's picture by the tribal chieftains and farmers.

The people of Esfahan, while holding rallies at 24th Esfand Square, today also declared their loyalty to the constitution. The participants of these rallies carried pictures of the holy 'Ali, peace be upon him, and of the shahanshah and his imperial majesty the crown prince and, while vociferously expressing their feelings, marched along Esfahan's avenues. Others, sitting in their cars and chanting national and patriotic slogans, paid tribute to their brother soldiers.

Yesterday thousands of farmers, workers, educators and various classes in Chadegan district held national and patriotic demonstrations.

This morning a group of people from Reza'iyeh held national and patriotic demonstrations in the city's streets. According to our correspondent, the demonstrators, while marching on their route, clashed with a group of people opposing them and as a result a number of the demonstrators were wounded and shops were damaged. Following this incident the governor general of Western Azarbaijan, in a message broadcast by Reza'iyeh radio, called on the people to refrain from holding any kind of demonstration whatsoever.

TEHRAN DENIES REPORT ON FORMING REGENCY COUNCIL

LD141542Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD

[Text] An Imperial Court spokesman today strongly denied a UPI report regarding the formation of a regency council. UPI this evening, in a dispatch datelined Tehran, reported that a regency council will be formed soon.

TANJUG REPORTS CIVILIAN CABINET MAY SOON BE FORMED

LD142033Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1921 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tehran, Dec 14 (TANJUG)--A prominent Iran political figure, who this morning had an audience with the shah, has stated to TANJUG's Tehran reporter that a civilian cabinet could be formed in Iran during the next ten days. Asking his identity not to be disclosed, the Iranian political figure confirmed the possibility of the presence of the national front "spirit" in the new cabinet but, in no event, of the front leader, Dr San'abi.

This supports speculations according to which the shah continues his efforts to solve the crisis by forming a civilian cabinet. The shah discussed the civilian cabinet as a possible solution with Dr Sanjabi yesterday. Today, he received former Premier 'Ali Amini. Observers here, however, do not believe possible a compromise between the shah and Dr Sanjabi. Former Premier 'Ali Amini is, on the other hand, known to be an unacceptable choice to the National Front.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES CIRCULAR ON COUNTERING STRIKES

ID141558Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD

[Text] In a document to ministries and government organizations, the government has said that specific regulations will be carried out to counter strikes and slowdowns and that it will treat each individual on the basis of his methods in serving the people and society.

The government announces in its circular that any civil servant refusing to go to work, or going to work but refusing to do anything or going on a slowdown, will be dismissed on the basis of regulations.

The government also in today's document instructs governors general and security officials throughout the country to prevent any demonstration by any group which might threaten public order and peace. The government further announces that provocateurs and instigators will be arrested by security officers in order to maintain the people's welfare and that they will be tried by competent sources.

OFFICIALS INSTRUCTED TO PREVENT DEMONSTRATIONS

ID151038Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Dec 78 LD

[Text] In a statement issued yesterday the government instructed the governors general and the law enforcement authorities to take strong measures to prevent the holding of any demonstration, by any group whatsoever, which could disrupt public order and tranquility. Here is the government statement:

Following the demonstrations and marches on 10 and 11 December in Tehran and other cities, which displayed certain slogans which run counter to religion and the constitution and which could not enjoy the approval of all the people, during the past 2 days, a number of our compatriots, under the banner of expressing opposition to those demonstrations and expressing their patriotic feelings, have held marches in certain cities. However, since these marches caused distrubances in certain places, the continuation of which is under no circumstances in the interests of the country, all governors general and responsible law enforcement officials throughout the realm have been emphatically instructed to vigorously prevent any action involving violence, which is indecent and incorrect, no matter what name or title the action is held under and no matter what group or faction organizes it, which could threaten public order and tranquillity.

In the government's opinion, at this juncture, when the crisis has cast a shadow over our national life, it is the duty of every patriotic person to carry out the duty which he has given an undertaking to society to implement. It is this quality which could guarantee a hopeful future for the life of the nation and bring back tranquillity and stability to our dear homeland.

PRIME MINISTER AZHARI INTERVIEWED ON OIL SHORTAGE

LD142146Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD

["Exclusive" interview granted by Gen Gholam Reza Azhari, Iranian prime minister, to Tehran radio correspondent on 14 December--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] When you presented your program to the houses of parliament, the provision of fuel and foodstuffs was one of the items on it. Unfortunately, there is still some shortage of fuel, though to a lesser extent. Could you please comment on the reasons behind the shortage and the present oil situation?

[Answer] As you know, one of the country's sources of income is oil and its byproducts. Under normal circumstances, we were able to produce 5.7 million barrels daily, some of it for domestic consumption and the rest for export in order to secure the necessary revenue to meet the other needs of the country. Unfortunately, since the strikes began [words indistinct] on average over the past 2 months production fell to 2.9 million barrels a day, and during the past week it has fallen even further, to around 1.2 million barrels per day. Obviously, this is going to have grave consequences both for domestic consumption and, as we cannot export the oil and secure the money we need to meet our other requirements, for our revenues.

These strikes which have been taking place stemmed partly from demands for better welfare, which were met as much as possible. However, as you know, the enemies of Iran have, unfortunately, caused the great revolution of the Iranian people to deviate from its course. Another point is these strikes. After we met the welfare demands of oil workers, they were influenced by propaganda once more and continued with their strikes.

[Question] General, could you please comment on the effects of the reduction in production of oil and its byproducts on the daily life of the people?

[Answer] If I really tried to tell you about the impact of the oil shortage on the people's daily life it would take hours.

If we fail to produce oil on the former scale--and this is the most important thing--we will not even be able to pay the salaries of the employees, even the oil industry's employees and workers. Therefore, oil revenues are important, for they constitute the basis of our economy.

Another point I should mention is the country's development programs. If these projects are not continued, Iran and the Iranian people will sustain losses of billions of rials; we have to complete these projects. If we fail to complete these projects then they will be ruined by wind, rain and time. I do not think any Iranian would want to see billions of rials go to waste, in terms both of money as well as years of work by the millions of Iranians who worked on these projects. Therefore, oil revenues are badly needed by Iran and every individual Iranian.

As for the measures adopted by the government, as you know, contrary to what Iran's enemies claim--they want to hold the government responsible for these strikes, they intend to bring the government to its knees, but by this action they will harm 36 million Iranians--these strikes will not only deal a blow to the government, but they will deal a blow to the 36 million-strong population of Iran. So the best approach is to make people aware and inform them of the consequences of these strikes for every single Iranian, even for the workers.

Some people might think I should not make such remarks, but I have said that I wish to let the people know the facts; I want them to understand. I have been forced to purchase oil from an oil-producing country, from other countries, because kerosene is needed by the low-income group; they want to cook their food.

[Question] You mean our production has fallen to that level?

[Answer] Yes, our production is that low. We have very little kerosene. Fortunately, we have bought some from certain countries, even from some friendly countries who had already sold it elsewhere. But these friendly countries demonstrated their true humanity. When they realized that the masses of our low-income population were short of kerosene, they provided us with some; there is still some on the way. As prime minister, as an Iranian, I am ashamed when we have so much oil under our feet and I have to go and buy oil from abroad for workers and people with low incomes.

As I wanted to be certain of the benefits to the people from the oil revenues [words indistinct], I instructed the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and the plan organization to prepare me a list. According to this list, in order to reduce the prices of foodstuffs, in the current year 68 billion rials from the oil revenues are allocated to subsidize foodstuffs and other essential commodities. This is a very impressive figure--68 billion. Of this sum, about 11 billion rials covers the difference between the prices of wheat and flour. For every kilogram of wheat the government spends 6.5 rials to help the consumer. The same thing applies to sugar.

[Question] As you know, these strikes are not limited to oil industry workers, there are other strikes as well, though in certain other areas they have ended. Will you please explain what is to be done about the strikers?

[Answer] Fortunately, in a great many ministries and government organizations the strikes have ended. However, there are others who are still continuing their strike action. We raised this point in the cabinet and decided that the nation does not consider payment of salaries and benefits to strikers justified, for I do not believe a single individual in this country wants to pay a salary to someone who goes on strike and stops others from doing their job.

You have to remember that the government has no money of its own; whatever it has belongs to the people, to the nation. The government only operates on behalf of the nation. Therefore, a circular has been issued, addressed to all ministries and government organizations, to dismiss anyone refusing to work, in accordance with the regulations. Meanwhile, a bill is to be presented to the houses of the parliament; for indeed we cannot suspend work. Someone may think that, for example, if he did not go to work in the Customs Department, nothing would happen. But, consider the damage this would cause. Consequently, instructions have been issued for suspension in such cases. Later, when the approval of the houses of the parliament has been obtained, such people will be dismissed completely from government organizations.

[Question] As I understand it, we definitely need oil revenues, there is no doubt about that. Will you please comment on Iran's position on the OPEC meeting which is to be held next week?

[Answer] Unfortunately, considering my present situation I will obviously not be able to do what the nation expects of me. I will be quite frank, for I am a soldier and I express my feelings directly. In view of this situation, when an oil-producing country is purchasing oil from abroad and importing it, can I be expected to participate in OPEC, as I did 3 years ago? Therefore at a cabinet meeting it was agreed to abide by the majority decision [of the OPEC members], for right now I have no authority. I am buying the oil I need from abroad, so how can I hold any influence over others? You cannot imagine what these strikes have done to the nation and to the country. The magnitude of all this will emerge later.

MAJLIS HOLDS OPEN SESSION 14 DECEMBER

LD141642Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] The Majlis held an open session today. During the session, which came to order at 0900 under Dr Javad Sa'id, the speaker, Mr Nazemi, minister of state for parliamentary affairs, declared the government's readiness to answer issues raised in censure motions introduced against the government. During the session today seven deputies made preagenda speeches, and a bill was put on the agenda.

Mr Sadeq Eftekhar, deputy from Lap, was the first preagenda speaker today. He began by referring to the mourning period for Imam Husayn. He then referred to the demonstrations staged on 10 and 11 December and said: The massive and extensive demonstrations by the citizens of Tehran, characterized by their unprecedented order and calm, once again proved the Iranian nation's political maturity. The marches of 10 and 11 December were not only unprecedented in Iran's history but also very rare in any society. He added: Facts cannot and should not be denied. The widespread discontent prevailing now stems from past mistakes and neglect. This is no secret to anyone. Man's tolerance threshold in the face of oppression, injustice and exploitation, and the Iranian nation's cries for justice, are now proof of our society's dreadful pains. The people who have resorted to rebellion and uprising with the slightest provocation are not foreign hirelings. Rather, they are people who for many years were deprived of any opportunity to express their views under a mountain of silence. Had their anger and protest been able to surface by peaceful means and proper channels, there would never have been any cause for fury and violence, or at least nothing as horrendous as has been experienced these recent days. With the utmost temerity and impudence, the previous governments lied to the people and squandered the nation's golden opportunities and its exhaustible petroleum resources.

Mr Sadeq Eftekhar went on: The authority of the world's Shi'ites, His Eminence Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari, describing the position of the religious community with regard to the current developments and the shape of things to come, has stated: What we want is a change from despotic rule to a government of the people, for the people--a just government and a just order. This is what we want. Naturally, in a country where the majority are Muslims who favor Islam, a government of the people for the people necessarily implies observing the rules of the lofty Islamic tenets. Unfortunately, the Sharif-Emani government failed to win the people's confidence, and it was clear right from the start it could not achieve this, for most of his cabinet members were those who had served under previous governments and whom the people distrusted.

Mr Sadeq Eftekhar said: The Iranian nation seeks an order which can provide individual security and protection based on democratic principles and fundamental rights. Only a stability and tranquility that incorporate national freedom, social justice and economic and political independence can be regarded as worthwhile. He went on: The solution to the country's current problems is not a military one. All those interested in the country's independence and territorial integrity should exert efforts to find a fundamental and definite political solution.

Mr Shahbaz Shahbazi, deputy from Firuzabad, was the next preagenda speaker. At one point in his speech he said: The policy of killing and bloodshed is not a remedy for our ills or the solution to our problem. This policy can only lead to further violence and turmoil. Come now, respect the Iranian nation which on many occasions has proved its complete political maturity.

This government, or any other government interested in this country's durability and in this nation's standing, should do its utmost in every way possible to regain the people's trust and confidence, which the sworn enemies of this land have been destroying for many years. There is no other way and no other solution. How could this government, which claims to be carrying out the law with strict adherence to its details and which claims to be a perfectly legal government, permit itself to suspend a part of the constitution which cannot be suspended in its entirety or in part? The press is the fourth pillar of the constitution. The public media has, in practice, all been closed down. What benefit can the government derive from this, except to give encouragement to the people to listen to foreign radio stations and give rise to rumormongering? What would the reaction to this be, both at home and abroad? Would not our enemies exploit this state of affairs?

Mr 'Ali Akbar Tutunchian, deputy from Mashhad, was the third preagenda speaker. He said: These days we are witnessing massive protests stemming from a previous mishandling of affairs. We must identify the problems that have brought about the current discontent. The deputy from Mashhad went on: With respect to the principles of the constitution, I have a particular solidarity with the sacred demands and objectives of the religious community and my constituents.

Mr Tutunchian then called on the government to take immediate action to prosecute those engaged in printing forged proclamations.

Dr Sattari, deputy from Rasht, referred to the recent marches and to the movement in the Iranian nation in his preagenda speech. He said: In recent decades, any movement and any public activity taking place within the provisions of the constitution have been wholly attributed to foreign agents, and such activities are still being attributed to foreign agents by using thousands of devious means and devices as an excuse to crush the people's legitimate demonstrations. As we have seen in the recent past and can still see today, a few individuals who consider patriotism and human dignity only as a means for achieving a temporary high position think of nothing except lining their own pockets. Their main characteristics can be summed up as spinelessness, hypocrisy, and self-seeking activities. He went on: They think that by distorting the voice of Iran's revolution, which we have all heard, they will be able to deny the facts as they are and pretend they are more Catholic than the pope.

The deputy from Rasht, on his own behalf and on behalf of eight other Majlis deputies, addressed the speaker, and said: Emphasizing once again the need to listen to the voice of Iran's revolution and appreciating the importance of the 10 and 11 December mourning period, it was rumored that a number of subversive elements had intended to disrupt the ceremonies held on the occasion, to raise improper banners and to cause further killings of innocent and religious minded people. Sounding a danger signal here, we warn the government not to allow bloody and regrettable incidents, which could certainly have irreparable consequences, to occur these days. Obviously, if the necessary attention is not paid to this timely warning, we the deputies are dutybound, in accordance with the oath we have taken in the context of the constitution and the protection of the Iranian nation's rights, to carry out our legal duties. He went on: In the interest of Iran and its existence, there should be a government in which no one, from director general upward, has held a government post in the past two decades or who has earned himself an unacceptable public image. Most of those in office today are the very same people who have changed color as they deemed expedient.

During the Majlis session today several questions addressed to the government were submitted to the Majlis by a number of Majlis deputies. Mr Hushang Nazemi submitted a question to the Majlis regarding the incidents in Malayer on 11 December, in which two people were killed, and demanded punishment for those responsible. Mr Seyyed Karim Kazemi submitted a memorandum addressed to the government regarding the killing of the late Farhad Ma'sumi in a shooting last Friday. Mr Seyyed 'Abdollah Sadiqzadeh submitted a memorandum addressed to the government regarding incidents on 11 and 12 December which caused substantial damage in various parts of the country.

Dr Rashid Yasami, Mohsen Ojaq and 'Ali Akbar Mo'tazedi collectively submitted a memorandum addressed to the government regarding the recent incidents in Kermanshah, which led to one person being killed there. Mr Hoseyn Tajaddod submitted a question addressed to the government regarding the incidents on 22 November and 8 December in Anar region in Rafsanjan which resulted in four people being killed and many others being wounded. Mr 'Ali Sadiq-Esfandiari demanded that the government deliver to the Majlis a list of all those people who have exported more than 10 million rials in foreign exchange since the beginning of the year [21 March]. Mr 'Abbas 'Ata'i, Ahmad Komeylizadeh and Dr Sadri Keyvan collectively demanded that the government take immediate action with regard to the incidents on 7 December, in which a number of people were killed and wounded. Mr Rahmanqoli Seyyedi, Seyyed Karm Kazemi, Mohammad Sattari, Dr Firuzabadi, Sadiq Esfandiari, Dr Mehid Kushki and Sa'id Javadi collectively addressed a question to the government regarding the employment of foreign specialists, which has resulted in the umemployment of a group of educated young people in the country. Mr Hasan Ohadi addressed a memorandum to the government regarding the recent incidents in Homayunshahr and Esfahan, in which a number of people were killed and wounded. He noted that instead of inciters being arrested and punished in these incidents, the people had been fired on. He warned against the adverse consequences of such incidents.

[Excerpts] Mr Morteza Moshir, deputy from Fasa, in a memorandum addressed to the government, said that in the past 3 days many thousands of people from various sections of his community, who had taken part in peaceful marches, had been attacked and fired on by security forces, resulting in many people being killed and wounded. The Fasa deputy demanded that the justice minister institute an investigation regarding the incidents, prosecute those responsible, and report the outcome to the Majlis. Dariyush Shirvani from Tehran, Kazom Rahmani from Quchan, and Esma'il Navvab Safa, deputy from Esfahan, submitted a question addressed to the government regarding the reason why a number of Iranians residing abroad had been arrested on their return home.

During the Majlis session today, Mr Esma'il Navvab Safa, deputy from Esfahan, filed a suit in the Majlis with the speaker against the prime minister and cabinet members. In this suit, the Esfahan deputy pointed out that the most important failure of General Azhari's government has been in the restoration of security and a campaign against corruption. However, the Iranian people's peace of mind will be secure only when they can see the great criminals of history, the plunderers of public funds, oppressors, and those who violated national rights and fundamental freedoms tried in a revolutionary, national tribunal and punished, whereas the government is unfortunately squandering valuable opportunities. He referred to the incidents last Friday and Saturday and, based on the country's existing laws and principle No 9, of the supplement to the constitution, asked the speaker to refer the matter through the Majlis for appropriate judiciary authorities to pursue.

Mr Mohsen Pazeshkpur [Pan-Iranist Party leader] and deputyfrom Khorramshahr, submitted a question to the Majlis in which he said that at the previous Majlis meeting, Deputy Bahremand from Aasadabad in Hamadan region submitted a question addressed to the government regarding the sale of a piece of land to the Ministry of Energy by Mr Bani-Ahmad, deputy from Tabriz, as well as other questions. At the same meeting of the Majlis, the texts of three censure motions against the government were also delivered by a group of deputies. In spite of the fact that both according to the law and tradition, a censure motion is a matter of such special importance that the continuation of the government's life depends on the answer to the censure motion and the voting on it, and in spite of the fact that for the first time in Iran's constitutional history three censure motions were introduced against this government and the texts of all three motions were read at the Majlis, nothing more than a brief report that the motions were read has been broadcast on radio and television. Not a single sentence from any of the three motions has been read on the radio, as an example.

In addition, and without any justification, the question raised by Mr Bahremand was reflected as a suit by Mr Bahremand against Mr Bani-Ahmad. Everyone knows that a question addressed to the government cannot be described as a suit against a Majlis deputy. In addition, although not a single sentence of the censure motions has been read on the radio or television, that question, described as a suit, has been fully broadcast on news programs, even including foreign service news broadcasts. Mr Pezeshkpur then demanded that the government take action to reflect the speeches made in the Majlis, particularly through the radio and television.

Mr Ahmad Bani-Ahmad, deputy from Tabriz, submitted a six-point suit against the minister of information and tourism to the Majlis today.

The majlis session ended at 1130.

TEHRAN COMMENTARY CALLS ON PEOPLE TO PROTECT IRAN

LD142230Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Compatriots, the Iranians' solidarity and unity in safeguarding the pious and shah-loving Iranian society and keeping the country free of foreign interference have aroused the anger of a group of colonialist secessionists and sent their hirelings on a mad scramble. The countryless seditionists, with their plots and machinations, intend to sow differences and discord among the members of the family of Iran, a family made up of loyal and self-sacrificing sisters and brothers and guided by kindhearted and enlightened fathers and mothers.

No one could guide Iranian young people except an Iranian who has faith and is God-fearing and homeland-loving. The foreigners, under the mask of kindness and compassion and bearing beguiling gifts, make themselves out to be the executors of justice, the justices of society and the sentinels of human rights. But once they achieve their filthy design, which is to rob Iran of freedom and destroy its independence and beliefs, they reveal their hideous visage, and by exploiting national riches they occupy the seat of power.

Do you recall the treaties imposed on us by the foreigner? Remember the secessionist activities of the foreigners following World War II? Have you forgotten the colonialist venalities of the foreigner through fomenting strife and plots?

Dear compatriots, beginning now, teach your young people and youngsters, who are the builders of Iran's future, to think correctly and read the pages of our country's history for their benefit! Teach them so that they may correctly become aware of relations with foreigners by pondering and reviewing the ancient and vicissitude-filled history of Iran, so that they may judge with vigilance and awareness today's events in Iran! And teach them the worship of God, the love of the homeland and honesty! Remind them that Iran's constitution should be respected! Teach them the concept of national unity and awaken the love of Iran in their hearts! Prepare them for confrontation with colonialism and the plots of the foreigners!

Iran's foes are constantly lurking in wait so that with the help of the smallest chink in our national unity, they may break up your family, which is brimming with sincerity and unity, and then bring into fruition their venal designs.

Compatriots, under any circumstances, do not lose your national cohesion and monolithic unity! If there are problems and issues that disturb your minds, strive to solve these by your own hands and with the help of your brothers! Do not shake the enemies' hand of friendship and help, since by doing that you will issue the sentence for the destruction of Iran!

Compatriots, in order to cut the hand of the foreigner and the xenophile, your brother soldiers, carrying their lives in their hands, are ready for self-sacrifice and self-immolation. Do not fear the menaces of the traitors, and pin your hopes on the help of these Muslim, self-sacrificing and faithful brothers, and know that victory is ours because Iran's God is with us!

MTI REPORTS BUDAPEST TV INTERVIEW WITH SHARI'AT-MADARI

LD101830Y Budapest MTI in English 1710 GMT 10 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Budapest, December 9 (MTI)--Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari, the home-resident leader of the Shi'ite religion and one of the most influential opposition politicians of Iran, has received a shooting team from the Hungarian television and assessed in a statement political demands against the shah.

He said that Iran had formally adopted a constitutional order as back as over 70 years ago, the constitution having been the foundation of the state. However, politicians of the system failed to keep the rules it imposes, making use of the items useful for them and ignoring others serving the good of the people.

"As a result, the state has turned into a dictatorial system, creating a general mood of dissatisfaction which is now threatening with explosion. Considering that Islam is against any kind of oppression and requires the Muslims to observe the truth, we, in our capacity as religious consultants, are leading the people true to our duty. Our aim is to turn our state from autocracy to democracy and to bring about a just Islamic system," says Shari'at-Madari.

Asked about the program he and his followers are struggling for and its differences from that of Ayatollah Khomeyni, Shari'at-Madari answered the following: (?Their) main objective is "that the Iranian people not exposed to colonialism and exploitation. In this respect there is no contrast between us and Ayatollah Khomeyni. But as he lives abroad and we in Iran, we sometimes entertain varying views in matters of tactics."

To a question relating to the type of the government they demand, he pointed out: "What we demand is democracy. As the majority of the Iranian people is Muslim, we shall, of course, observe the Islamic rules when the people will take over the power, and in this way a form of the Islamic state can be created. Therefore, there is no question of coalition or non-coalition. But it is the people who will decide the system under which they want to live. We want a system resting on the grounds of truth."

As the ayatollah put it, the masses stand opposed also the the military government, the shah's last support, because it is incapable of meeting their demands. To the question whether the system may survive the clashes likely to occur during the religious feast of December 11, Shari'at-Madari gave an elusive answer: "It remains to be seen next Monday what kind of situation will come about." At the same time, Shari'at-Madari's remark that the opposition is no longer willing to talk with the shah about the fulfilment of its demands, clearly refers to the gap between the shah and its opposition. "We demand justice, something that is not subject to bargain," he said.

Should power shift into the hands of the opposition, we shall be guided by the spirit of peaceful co-existence and friendship in our relationship with foreign states and individuals, the ayatollah pointed out. He denied in his statement allegations of the shah's followers that the opposition would be against progress. Just on the contrary, it sees the ground of the people's welfare and social progress in the development of material production, said Shari'at-Madari.

VOICE OF LEBANON SAYS KHOMEYNI TO GO TO LEBANON

NC141302Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 14 Dec 78 NC

[Text] An official of the Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council today told the Voice of Lebanon correspondent that Ayatollah Khomeyni, the Iranian religious and opposition leader who is now in Paris, will move to Lebanon in mid-January and will stay in Tyre for some time. He will then move to Az-Zahra' in Khaldah where he will stay 1 month.

KHOMEYNI SUPPORTER THREATENS U.S. OIL EMBARGO

LD141639Y Paris FRANCE-SOIR in French 14 Dec 78 p 7 LD

[Jean-Louis Morillon report: "Ayatollah's supporters threaten France: 'If you aline yourselves with the Americans, you will suffer...'"]

[Excerpt] "The imam has no spokesman." The all-powerful Khomeyni has had this notice posted on the walls and in the gardens of his Neauphle-le-Chateau residence. So do his messages really make it possible to know what will become of Iran? He excommunicates the shah, threatens his "henchmen" and promises an Islamic republic and a haughty nationalism. But his words, tirelessly repeated, are often too general and vague, as though he refuses to detail his program.

However, does he need to feel that he is in a position of strength in order to lecture the world's governments, including our own host country? The recent visit to Neauphle by Claude Chayet, emissary of the Quai d'Orsay, to remind the ayatollah of the duties of reserve incumbent on a foreigner in France, was by no means appreciated by the party concerned: "Was he sent to save face or was he serious? [paragraph continues]

In any case it is difficult for our people to distinguish between those two attitudes. He regards this warning as a hostile act. Hitherto French enterprises and the French Embassy have been respected and even liked by the Iranian people. But if the French Government now prefers to aline itself with the Americans, it will pay for it," Abolhasan Banisadr threatened on Wednesday.

It was in the building where this Iranian sociologist and economist, who has worked in France for 15 years, lives in Cachan (Val-de-Marne) that the supreme leader of the Shi'ites lived for several days after his flight from Iraq in October. Mr Banisadr rejects the title of "representative" or "adviser" of Khomeyni. But he obviously exerts a great influence. What he says has the merit of being much more precise than the communiques of the ayatollah, whose thinking he explains:

"We have a 250-page program elaborated 5 years ago about all the political, economic, social and cultural aspects," Mr Banisadr asserts, revealing the broad outline of this text. The immediate objective is the overthrow of the Pahlavi dynasty, and this rules out abdication in favor of the crown prince, who has just celebrated his 18th birthday in the United States, where he is training as a pilot.

"If the army takes advantage of the shah's departure to stage a coup d'etat, the struggle will continue. After the victory the corrupt figures will be put on trial." Mr Banisadr admits that these "culprits" run the risk, at the very least, of having their fingers cut off--the punishment which Shi'ite Islam lays down for thieves. The Koran will become the very foundation of the state.

One-Upmanship

After a referendum--for form's sake--an Islamic republic will be instituted. "Freedom of speech will be guaranteed for all," the ayatollah's close associate assures us. But he immediately stipulates: "If the Tudeh Party (the Iranian Communist Party) remains an element of Soviet policy, we will treat it in the same way as we treat the shah's regime today, for above all we are defending national independence." But can one not, in the name of this nationalism, gag any nonconformist and accuse him of treason?

The regime will very swiftly set about "rebuilding the economy." This profession of faith in fact heralds the nationalization of the oil companies and the review of all contracts signed with foreigners. "Israel (which receives the bulk of its oil from Iran) will no longer receive any Iranian goods. We will unfailingly protect the Palestinians while guaranteeing the rights of Jews in Iran," Mr Banisadr promises. Nonetheless he does make a disturbing remark about the Israeli minority: "It has become corrupted with the shah. The people harbor violent resentment against it. But the ayatollah has calmed people's minds."

The Americans, who are real betes noires of the shah's opponents, run the risk of being the first victims of the Islamic republic. "There will be an embargo on the tapping of oil for export to the United States or to any state which continues to support the shah, starting this week," Abolhasan Banisadr declares, reiterating the ayatollah's Monday message.

This program is only an outline. It nonetheless portends future upheavals in Iran. All the more so since the ayatollah has not yet put all his cards on the table.

"Khomeyni refuses to be a politician. He will return to his home in Qom (holy city south of Tehran). He will send messages to the people so that they can dictate the government's line of action," Mr Banisadr states. Civilian power in Tehran would thus be the prisoner of the most intransigent religious leader who will be obliged, if he wants to survive, to play at one-upmanship.

NATIONAL VOICE OF IRAN ON THREAT OF 'U.S. IMPERIALISM'

LD1412107 National Voice of Iran [clandestine] in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 20 Nov 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] Dear countrymen, what has become the focus of attention to our country's public and the world in the past 2 days concerns the reply given by Mr Leonid Brezhnev, the leader of the Soviet Union, in response to a question by a PRAVDA correspondent regarding interference in Iran's developments by Western governments, led by the United States. As the text of this interview and its contents are of special importance to our country in these crucial historic moments, we therefore draw the attention of dear countrymen to the text of this interview.

Mr. Brezhnev's remarks, which are a warning to U.S. imperialists and their Western allies, are in fact a move in the context of respect for the independence and national sovereign rights of the Iranian people. In their current battle to oust imperialism, particularly U.S. imperialism and its supporters, the people of our homeland enjoy the support of progressive humanity and all peace-loving nations, particularly our northern neighbor. Our dear countrymen know that for the past 25 years U.S. imperialism has established its domination over our country, since the evil 18 August 1953 coup d'etat, and effectively turned Iran into a semicolonial state.

It is no longer a secret to anyone that on the eve of the formation of the shah's military cabinet, a large group of CIA agents arrived in Iran on two special planes and they are currently busy hatching plots against the Iranian people. Evidence proves that U.S. imperialism is lying in wait to take action should the situation in Iran get out of control, as it were--or, in other words, to resort to open military interference. Thus, more than ever before conspiratorial American plots today threaten our homeland's independence and national sovereign rights with an onslaught by rabid U.S. imperialism.

On the unfounded excuse of protecting its strategic and vital interests, U.S. imperialism wants to turn our country into a heap of ashes. In these circumstances, and appreciating the depth of the evil consequences resulting from the U.S. imperialist plots, one can appreciate the importance of Mr Leonid Brezhnev's interview and his warning to adventurist imperialist quarters. Our friendly northern neighbor and government has delivered a decisive, timely and unequivocal warning to imperialist quarters in defense of the Iranian nation and its national sovereignty against its enemies.

In these crucial historic moments the Iranian people can see once again who is on the side of defending Iran's independence and its national sovereign rights and who is against the Iranian nation. The people of our homeland value highly the move by our friendly, neighboring country, the Soviet Union, in defending our country's independence and national sovereign rights.

AFGHANISTAN

GOVERNMENT PUBLISHES FIRST ISSUE OF SOWR REVOLUTION

LDT150034Y Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 2 Dec 78 LD

[Summary] The SOWR REVOLUTION, official organ of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, was published yesterday. To commemorate the event a grand meeting was held by the Ministry of Information and Culture on Thursday afternoon. The meeting began with the national anthem followed by a message from Taraki read out by Bareq Shafi'i, minister of information and culture.

After reading the message Shafi'i delivered a speech in which he said: The Afghan people are witnessing the appearance of another star in their country's press. He added that the Yahya dynasty paid no attention to the people's culture and the country's press was in the service of the court.

"The minister of information and culture, after speaking on the Khalqi press and improvements made in it, said: Our Khalqi press today shoulders a great responsibility and duty. The duty of our Khalqi press now is to inform the people about their rights and to encourage them to work for their country's prosperity and the protection of their country's revolution. The revolutionary government has just started to fulfill its great mission for which it has worked over long years, the glorious history and victory of our noble people, and they are now determining [words indistinct] the destiny of a nation that has suffered oppression for long years. Hence it is the basic duty of the press to combat logically and in a revolutionary manner every move by reaction and [word indistinct] and subversion in all forms. The minister of information and culture at the end of his speech invited Dr Shah Wali, secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, minister of public health and acting minister of planning, to deliver his [word indistinct] speech at the meeting."

Dr Shah Wali said: It is a matter for great pride that within a short period of time after the Sowr Revolution important tasks have been accomplished which guarantee the final victory of the Sowr Revolution. Dr Shah Wali added: We witness two great historic events during the current week. The first is the promulgation of decree No 8 of the Revolutionary Council about land, and the second is the plenum of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

"This plenum has a great and historic importance, the results of which will become apparent in the life of the party and people of Afghanistan day by day. The Central Committee plenum expelled from the party the [word indistinct] elements [word indistinct], the reactionary elements and agents of imperialism who had put on revolutionary masks and (?thus) multiplied the force of the blow. We are fully certain that the decision of this historic plenum will bring success to our party in fulfilling its important and historic mission.

"Dr Shah Wali described the major duties and great mission of the press in publishing and disseminating the progressive aspirations of the Sowr Revolution of liberation, and said the press has the duty of introducing the cultural and educational revolution into the life of the people of Afghanistan." Dr Shah Wali stated that the experienced and revolutionary teacher of the people, Nur Mohammad Taraki, during his struggle for over 30 years has rendered valuable services to the cause of the people's press. The minister concluded his speech with revolutionary slogans.

Later Adolqayyum Nurazi, deputy minister of information and culture, in a speech on the revolutionary duties of the press said: The message of Nur Mohammad Taraki on the publication of the first issue of DE SOWR ENQELAB is in reality the beginning of the cultural and educational revolution in Afghanistan.

The BAKHTAR report adds: The editor of DE SOWR ENQUELAB, on behalf of his colleagues, said: I wish to promise Nur Mohammad Taraki and the government that the progressive objectives of the Sowr Revolution will be published in the daily DE SOWR ENQELAB. At the end of the meeting copies of the first issue were distributed among the audience.

## INDIA

### ISI CARRIES DESAI, LEE KUAN YEW BANQUET SPEECHES

BK141051Y Delhi ISI in English 0931 GMT 14 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The following is the text of speech by the prime minister, Morarji Desai, at a banquet given by him in honour of Lee Kuan Yew, prime minister of the Republic of Singapore, in New Delhi on December 13.

"It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm and cordial welcome to Your Excellency, Mrs Lee and members of your delegation on your visit to our country. We welcome you not only as the prime minister of a friendly country but as a dynamic leader of a modern industrial state which has successfully achieved its present prosperity under your able leadership and which owes to you so much for its organised and imaginative progress and for many successful innovations in various fields. Hardly any aspect of the enrichment of life of your citizens escapes your eager eye.

"Our country, Your Excellency, is no stranger to you. We have had the pleasure of receiving you here on earlier occasions. But your present visit is taking place at a time when we are witnessing a new orientation in life and the outlook of our peoples in South and Southeast Asia. A great awakening is observed in the countries of this region and I have no doubt that Asia has at last emerged from its slumber and apathy to a realisation of its own potentialities and its own place in world polity.

"Having successfully emerged from an era of domination to independence our people are engaged in a common endeavour to build a life of dignity and to create a society based on equality and fraternity. We see our tasks as part of a wider historic movement which would reshape the present order of things in order to ensure that mankind lives in peace and free from fear and want. Our efforts have been pursued in a spirit of cooperation and peaceful coexistence. At the same time our people have a passionate desire to preserve their hard won independence. Our policy of nonalignment is an expression of our desire to be free and by enlarging the area of peace, international understanding to make the world safe for development.

"Excellency, relations between our two countries are characterised by a spirit of cooperation and understanding. We have watched with admiration the great economic strides taken by your country which is today by far the most sophisticated industrial country in Southeast Asia. We wish you every success in your efforts which form a valuable contribution to mankind's desire to rid the world of the scourge of poverty and consequent confrontation. It also gives me pleasure to recall that you have made great progress to achieve an integrated and progressive society from a population of diverse ethnic origins. We are proud that the immigrants from India and their descendants take full part in the making of your nation as the proved and valued citizens of Singapore.

"Faced with the common problems and conscious of the interdependence of nations in a fast shrinking world the countries of South and Southeast Asia have a fresh opportunity today to renew their age-old contacts and cooperation with the possibilities offered by this age of science and industry. Indeed a new awareness of this Asian personality, proud of their heritage, is pulsating through this region today. A number of experiments in good neighbourly relations, subregional and regional cooperation are on the anvil. Have no doubt that they will succeed and provide further encouragement for us to come closer. My government has availed of these opportunities to strengthen our relations with our immediate neighbours. It is in this context that we have welcomed ASEAN as a legitimate manifestation of the desire of the states in Southeast Asia to come closer to each other. It is also our hope that this cooperation can in due course extend to the entire region of Southeast Asia and overcome the tensions prevailing in Indochina. It is only through such cooperation and mutual understanding that we can create in this region a zone of peace, free from the presence of elements which may seek in our waters the opportunities for ventilating their rivalries and practising their power politics. I venture also to suggest that it is through these means that we can promote the idea of self-help to a maximum degree.

"Excellency I am certain that your visit will help us to discover new areas of cooperation and provide an impetus to work together for the common service of mankind in a world free from tensions and gross inequities.

"Ladies and gentlemen, may I request you to join me in a toast to the health of his excellency the president of Singapore, the health of His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew, prime minister of the Republic of Singapore, the progress and prosperity of Singapore and the everlasting and growing friendship between our two countries."

Text of H.E. Lee Kuan Yew's speech

Replying to the toast H.E. Lee Kuan Yew said:

In 7 years since I last visited India many changes have overtaken the world especially South and Southeast Asia.

Perhaps the changes have a deeper imprint on young people. I come from a nation which by Asian standards has a very short history--just over 150 years. The distant past of our people lies with their ancestors in China, India, Malaysia and Indonesia. We have no ancient monuments, temples and other glorious antiquities. As a result we are only too eager to innovate and even to change our way of life.

However this lack of historical ballast could be dangerous at times of crisis. There is not assurance of a long and splendid history to provide that confidence that the destiny is on our side in coping with the next ominous crisis.

For instance, we in Singapore were startled by the sharp clash between the two communist states to our north for the time being confined to the Indochinese Peninsula. We were startled because we could not believe one communist government had set out deliberately to subvert and overthrow another communist government. When a communist does this to a noncommunist government he calls it "liberation." When he does it to another communist government he calls it quote "salvation."

We in Southeast Asia members of the countries of ASEAN want to coexist peacefully with all communist states to our north whatever their ideological idiosyncracies. India's commitment to noncommunism and nonalignment makes her a natural friend of the countries of ASEAN. Singapore has always found India a reliable and steadfast friend. It is a friendship that springs from the shared values of our common past and the shared expectations of one peaceful and stable world in which cooperation in Asia will bring benefits. It is therefore a great pleasure for me to be in Delhi again. It is yet another opportunity to meet old friends and renew old friendships.

Prime Minister, when I met you in London 18 months ago after a lapse of nearly 8 years you left a deep impression on me of a man completely secure and self-contained and none the worse for yet another period of detention. As you said, it was your conviction that good must triumph over evil which made all difficulties bearable. This is all a part of the Indian tradition Hindu ethos. This same ethos is what makes Indian civilization so durable. It is this long view of history that has seen India weather many a crisis with equanimity and quiet resolve.

Now may I ask you to join me in a toast to the good health of the president of the Republic of India, to his excellency the prime minister and to the progress and prosperity of the government and people of India.

VIETNAM ASSURED OF HELP IN OIL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

BK141155Y Delhi ISI in English 0858 GMT 14 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Minister for Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilisers H.N. Bahuguna on December 13 assured Vietnam that India would be only too glad to extend whatever cooperation and assistance it can to help Vietnam find their own oil.

Bahuguna gave this assurance during his 45-minute discussion with Vietnamese Oil Minister H.E. Dinh Duc Thien who is currently on a 10-day visit to India at the invitation of Bahuguna. H.E. Thien, heading a delegation of oil experts from his country, arrived in the capital on December 12.

During his talks with Bahuguna the Vietnamese minister said that Vietnam was at present engaged in the task of developing its oil prospects both onshore and offshore.

The minister for petroleum, chemicals and fertilisers said that there were a number of areas in which the two countries could cooperate. India, he said, had 20 years experience in the field and over the years it had acquired considerable capability in the field of oil exploration and refining and also in setting up petroleum-based industries like fertilisers and petrochemicals. It had also a large number of experts and technicians who were capable of overseeing the work of foreign contractors wherever they were engaged.

The minister said that India could help Vietnam in developing its own organizations which could not only undertake work on their own in various areas of the oil industry but could also evaluate the work of foreign contractors.